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ECOSYSTEMS IMPROVED FOR  
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES  
(ECOFISH) PROJECT

## ECOSYSTEMS IMPROVED FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES (ECOFISH) Project

### YEAR 1 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT (01 JULY 2012 – 31 MARCH 2013)

**ECOFISH Document No.: 08/2013**

Version: Final

***Implemented with:***

Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
National Government Agencies  
Local Government Units  
Assisting Organizations

***Supported by:***

United States Agency for International Development  
Contract No.: AID-492-C-12-00008

***Managed by:***

Tetra Tech ARD

30 May 2013

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### ***DISCLAIMER***

*The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.*

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
ARMM	-	Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
BFAR	-	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BuB	-	Bottom-up-Budgeting
BRUMM	-	Bohol Rescue Unit of Marine Mammals
CBA	-	Cost Benefit Analysis
CCA	-	Climate Change Adaptation
CCEF	-	Coastal Conservation Education Foundation
CCT	-	Conditional Cash Transfer
CFRM	-	Coastal and Fisheries Resources Management
CI	-	Conservation International
CLEC	-	Coastal Law Enforcement Council
CLUP	-	Coastal Land Use Plan
COP	-	Chief of Party
COR	-	Contracting Officer's Representative
CRM	-	Coastal Resource Management
CRMP	-	Coastal Resource Management Project
CSR	-	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTI	-	Coral Triangle Initiative
CTI-PI	-	Coral Triangle Initiative - Program Integrator
CTI-SEA	-	Coral Triangle Initiative - South East Asia
DA	-	Department of Agriculture
DAP	-	Development Academy of the Philippines
DBM	-	Department of Budget and Management
DCOP	-	Deputy Chief of Party
DDBRM	-	Danajon Double Barrier Reef Management Council
DENR	-	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	-	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOF	-	Department of Finance
EAFM	-	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
EBFM	-	Ecosystem Based Fisheries management
ECOFISH	-	Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries
EcoGov	-	Environmental Governance Project
EwE	-	Ecopath with Ecosim
FARMC	-	Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FISH	-	Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Project
HELPS	-	Health, Education, Livelihood, Peace and Governance Synergy
GCM	-	Growth, Control and Maintenance Mechanism
FishR	-	National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration
GPH	-	Government of the Philippines
HIPADA	-	Hinatuan Passage Development Alliance
ICM	-	Integrated Coastal Management
IEC	-	Information, Education and Communication

IR		Intermediate Result
IRR	-	Implementing Rules and Regulations
LCP	-	League of Cities of the Philippines
LGU	-	Local Government Unit
LMP	-	League of Municipalities of the Philippines
LOP	-	Life of Project
MAO	-	Municipal Agriculture Officer
MARINA	-	Maritime Industry Development Authority
MEAT	-	MPA Evaluation Assessment Tool
MERF	-	Marine Environment Resources Foundation
MFI	-	Malampaya Foundation, Inc.
MFRS	-	Municipal Fisherfolk Registration System
MKBA	-	Marine Key Biodiversity Area
MIS	-	Monitoring Information System
MOA	-	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	-	Marine Protected Area
MSN	-	MPA Support Network
MSU	-	Mindanao State University
NAMRIA	-	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
NAPC	-	National Anti Poverty Commission
NEDA	-	National Economic and Development Authority
NFARMC	-	National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
NFI	-	National Fisheries Institute
NFR	-	NGOs for Fisheries Reform
NGA	-	National Government Agencies
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NSAP	-	National Stock Assessment Program
NSO	-	National Statistics Office
OEECC	-	Office of Energy, Environment and Climate Change
PAO	-	Provincial Agriculture Officer
PCG	-	Philippine Coast Guard
PCRA	-	Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment
PCSD	-	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PDP	-	Philippine Development Plan
PEMO	-	Provincial Environment Management Officer
PES	-	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PFI	-	Path Foundation Inc.
PFO	-	Provincial Fisheries Officer
PGENRO	-	Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer
PHE	-	Philippine Health and Environment Program
PNP	-	Philippine National Police
PO	-	People's Organization
PPP	-	Public-Private Partnership
QRT	-	Quick Response Team
REECS	-	Resources Environment and Economics Center for Studies, Inc.

RSBSA	-	Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture
SAF	-	Special Activities Fund
SCTR	-	State of the Coral Triangle Report
SEP	-	Strategic Environmental Plan
SGIDS	-	Senior Governance and Institutional Development Specialist
SNCDMC	-	Southern Negros Coastal Development and Management Council
TK	-	Tanggol Kalikasan Inc.
TWG	-	Technical Working Group
UNEP-GEF	-	United Nations Environment Programme - Global Environment Facility
UPVFI	-	University of the Philippines in the Visayas Foundation, Inc.
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
USDOI	-	United States Department of Interior
VA	-	Vulnerability Assessment
VIP	-	Verde Island Passage
VIPMC	-	Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor
WWF	-	World Wildlife Fund for Nature

# **1. Introduction**

The technical assistance and services contract was awarded to Tetra Tech - ARD for the implementation of USAID/Philippines' Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project in June 29, 2012, under contract number AID-492-C-12-00008. The main objective of the ECOFISH Project is to improve the management of important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support local economies. The ECOFISH Project is intended to foster fishing sector reforms through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in larger marine conservation areas and involving clusters of Local Government Units (LGUs). It will promote the growth and restore the profitability of fisheries through conservation of ecosystem health and effective management.

The ECOFISH Project is in line with the current U.S. Country Assistance Strategy with respect to assistance directed at reducing threats to biodiversity and improving natural resources and environment. The ECOFISH Project is expected to contribute to achieving "Development Objective 3: Environmental Resilience Improved," particularly "IR3.2 Natural Resources and Environmental Management Improved" of the results framework of USAID/Philippine Mission's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (2012-2016). The Project is also designed to contribute to priority goals and actions laid out in the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016) particularly Chapter 4 (Competitive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries), and Chapter 10 (Protection, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Environment and Natural Resources). This five-year project will provide technical assistance to the Government of the Philippines (GPH), through the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) and implemented in partnership with selected LGUs.

This Year 1 Semi-Annual Report documents the activities/interventions during the first three quarters of ECOFISH project implementation covering the period 01 July 2012 to 31 March 2013. It likewise describes strategies and start up activities in engaging implementation partners, as well as entry points in engaging the national partners and local government partners in the eight MKBAs. This initial three-quarter coverage will enable the project to adjust to the USAID fiscal year reporting cycle. Subsequent semi annual reports will cover six-month periods.

## **2. Project Objectives**

The main objective of the ECOFISH Project is to improve the management of important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support local economies. It will conserve biological diversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in eight marine key biodiversity areas (MKBAs) using ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (EAFM) as a cornerstone of improved social, economic and environmental benefits.

The ECOFISH Project is designed to make an impact on eight (MKBAs) in the country (Figure 1), namely: (1) the Calamianes Group of Islands MKBA, (2) Lingayen Gulf MKBA, (3) Ticao Pass - Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino Strait MKBA, (4) Danajon Reef MKBA, (5) South



Negros MKBA, (6) Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte MKBA, (7) Sulu Archipelago MKBA, and (8) Verde Island Passage MKBA. They represent all six marine bio-regions of the Philippines and were selected due to their extremely high need for marine biodiversity conservation. These areas are marine ecosystem “hotspots” in the Philippines that mirror the common issues impacting capture fisheries locally and nationally, namely:

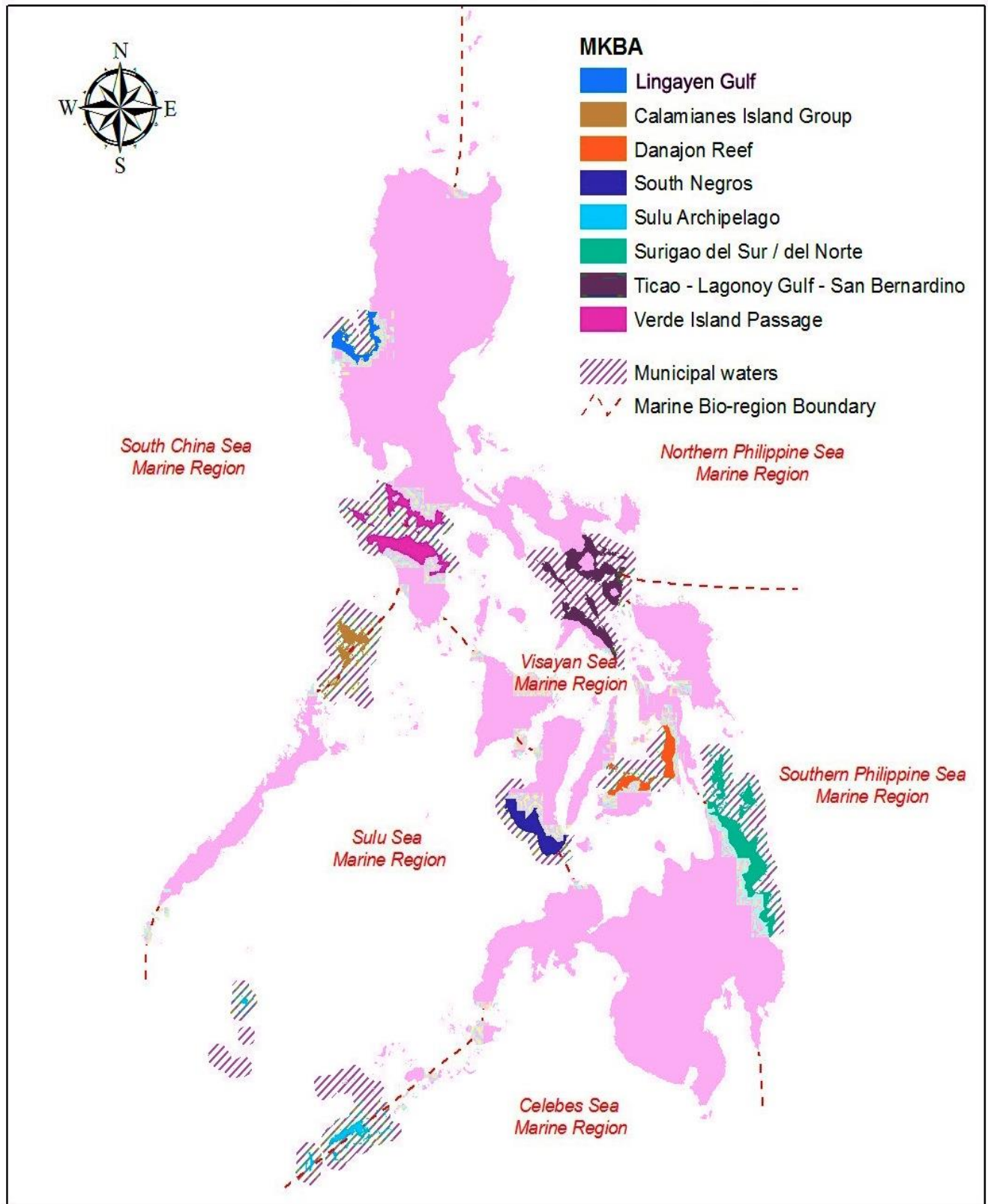
- loss of marine biodiversity;
- declining fish stocks;
- high population growth;
- limited private sector investment;
- inconsistent policies and programs for sustainable fisheries; and
- weak institutional and stakeholder capacity to plan and implement fisheries management.

Although majority of project activities will cut across these eight MKBAs, implementation strategies, focus, priorities, and level of engagements may differ from place to place mainly because each MKBA has unique ecosystem features, opportunities, and threats. Table 1 shows the general ecosystem features, opportunities and threats in the eight MKBAs.

At the end of five years, the 13 ECOFISH project deliverables (see Table 2) are expected to lead to the following key results:

- A) An average of 10% increase in fisheries biomass across the eight MKBAs.
- B) A 10% increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management from a baseline established at the start of the project.
- C) Establishment of a national capacity development program to enhance the capacities of LGUs and relevant national agencies to apply ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.
- D) Eight public-private partnerships supporting the objectives of the ECOFISH project created and operating.
- E) One million hectares of municipal marine waters under improved management.
- F) A core of 30 LGUs across the eight MKBAs with improved capacity for implementing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.

Table 2 presents the main relationship between the 13 deliverables and the six key results. Deliverables leading to Results C and D build the foundation for project activities. Those for Results E and F drive the implementation at the MKBA level, and taken together they attain the overall ECOFISH Results A and B.



**Figure 1. Map of the Eight Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBA) of ECOFISH**

**Table 1. Summary of Ecosystem Features, Opportunities and Threats in the Eight MKBAs**

<b>MKBA</b>	<b>Ecosystem Features</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Calamianes Island Group	70 percent of the coral and seagrass species recorded in the Philippines	Take advantage of focus on MPA management to support ecotourism and economic alternatives; collaborate and leverage work at CTI demonstration site.	Destructive fishing and uncontrolled live fish trade; one weak LGU reduces impact of inter-LGU alliance activities.
Lingayen Gulf	Extensive coral reef, seagrass, and soft bottom community supporting the rich fishing ground	Ability to identify specific protection and management interventions from long-term fisheries data sets; leverage high awareness due to past environmental programs to implement EAFM activities.	Severe overfishing and poor water quality in mariculture areas resulting in fish kills; lack of inter-LGU alliances.
Danajon Reef	One of only three double barrier reefs in the Indo-Pacific region	Take advantage of strong provincial and municipal buy-in of CRM programs to further EAFM goals. Strong LGU alliances.	High fish demand lead to high fishing pressure and illegal fishing.
South Negros Island	Deep water harbors large and small pelagic fishes	Begin to formalize and develop EAFM activities by building on long history of community-based marine protected areas.	No comprehensive assessment of capture fisheries; lack of inter-LGU alliances.
Sulu Archipelago	Rich ecosystem with massive network of coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves	Collaborate and leverage work at CTI demonstration site; begin the capacity building by capitalizing on increasing awareness on coastal and fisheries resource management.	Still weak management and law enforcement and lack of formal inter-LGU alliance agreements; unsustained support from some local governments.
Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte	Extensive deep water and shallow water coral reef, seagrass and soft bottom resources	Take advantage of strong inter-LGU alliances to leverage and increase fisheries interventions.	Upland erosion and siltation from mine tailings of nearshore impacting habitats.
Ticao Pass - San Bernardino - Lagonoy Gulf	Diverse small pelagic resources; important habitat for dolphins, dugongs, and whale sharks	Utilize long-term data for Lagonoy Gulf and Sorsogon Bay to identify specific interventions; take advantage of active university involvement to participate in project activities and development of employment from growing marine ecotourism sector.	Steep declines in fish stocks; encroachment of commercial vessels; complex marine ecosystem; lack of inter-LGU alliances.
Verde Island Passage	Considered the ‘center of the center’ of the world’s fish diversity	Long-term marine conservation initiatives by NGOs; CTI demonstration site.	Encroachment of commercial vessels, use of cyanide in aquarium fish collection.

**Table 2. Main Relationship between Project Deliverables and Key Results**

Tasks	Deliverables	Results	
		<p><b>Result A.</b> An average of 10% increase in fisheries biomass across the eight MKBAs.</p> <p><b>Result B.</b> A 10% increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management from a baseline established at the start of the project</p>	Final Outcomes
<p><b>Task 1.</b> Establish and Implement a National Training Program</p> <p><b>Task 2.</b> Provide Technical and Advisory Support at the National Level</p> <p><b>Task 3.</b> Create Public-Private Partnerships</p>	<p><b>Deliverable 1.</b> Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change</p> <p><b>Deliverable 2:</b> Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change</p> <p><b>Deliverable 3:</b> A National Database on EAFM Established Using the Annual Monitoring Data in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p><b>Deliverable 4:</b> State of the Marine Resources Report</p> <p><b>Deliverable 5:</b> National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted</p> <p><b>Deliverable 6:</b> Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established</p>	<p><b>Result C.</b> Establishment of a national capacity development program to enhance the capacities of LGUs and relevant national agencies to apply ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.</p> <p><b>Result D.</b> Eight public-private partnerships supporting the objectives of the ECOFISH project created and operating</p>	Build Foundation
<p><b>Task 4.</b> Provide Technical and Advisory Support at the Local Level</p> <p><b>Task 5.</b> Develop a Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters</p> <p><b>Task 6.</b> Identify and Implement Sustainable Financing Programs to Support EAFM Projects</p> <p><b>Task 7.</b> Establish a Baseline on Coastal and Marine Resources and Relevant Socio-economic Information, Develop and Apply Metrics on Monitoring EAFM Implementation in Target MKBAs</p>	<p><b>Deliverable 7:</b> Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs</p> <p><b>Deliverable 8:</b> Scientific Studies on Select MKBA- Specific Fish Species</p> <p><b>Deliverable 9:</b> MPA Network Analyses in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p><b>Deliverable 10:</b> Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p><b>Deliverable 11:</b> Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p><b>Deliverable 12:</b> Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs</p> <p><b>Deliverable 13:</b> Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs</p>	<p><b>Result E.</b> One million hectares of municipal marine waters under improved management.</p> <p><b>Result F.</b> A core of 30 LGUs across the eight MKBAs with improved capacity for implementing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.</p>	Implement Best Practices

### 3. General Work Plan Overview

Guided by the LOP Work Plan (ECOFISH Document No. 01/2013) and the Year 1 Annual Work Plan (ECOFISH Document No. 02/2013), this document describes the host of activities and interventions during the first 3 quarters of Year 1 of ECOFISH implementation, from 01 July 2012 to 31 March 2013. Major thrusts for this period include the following:

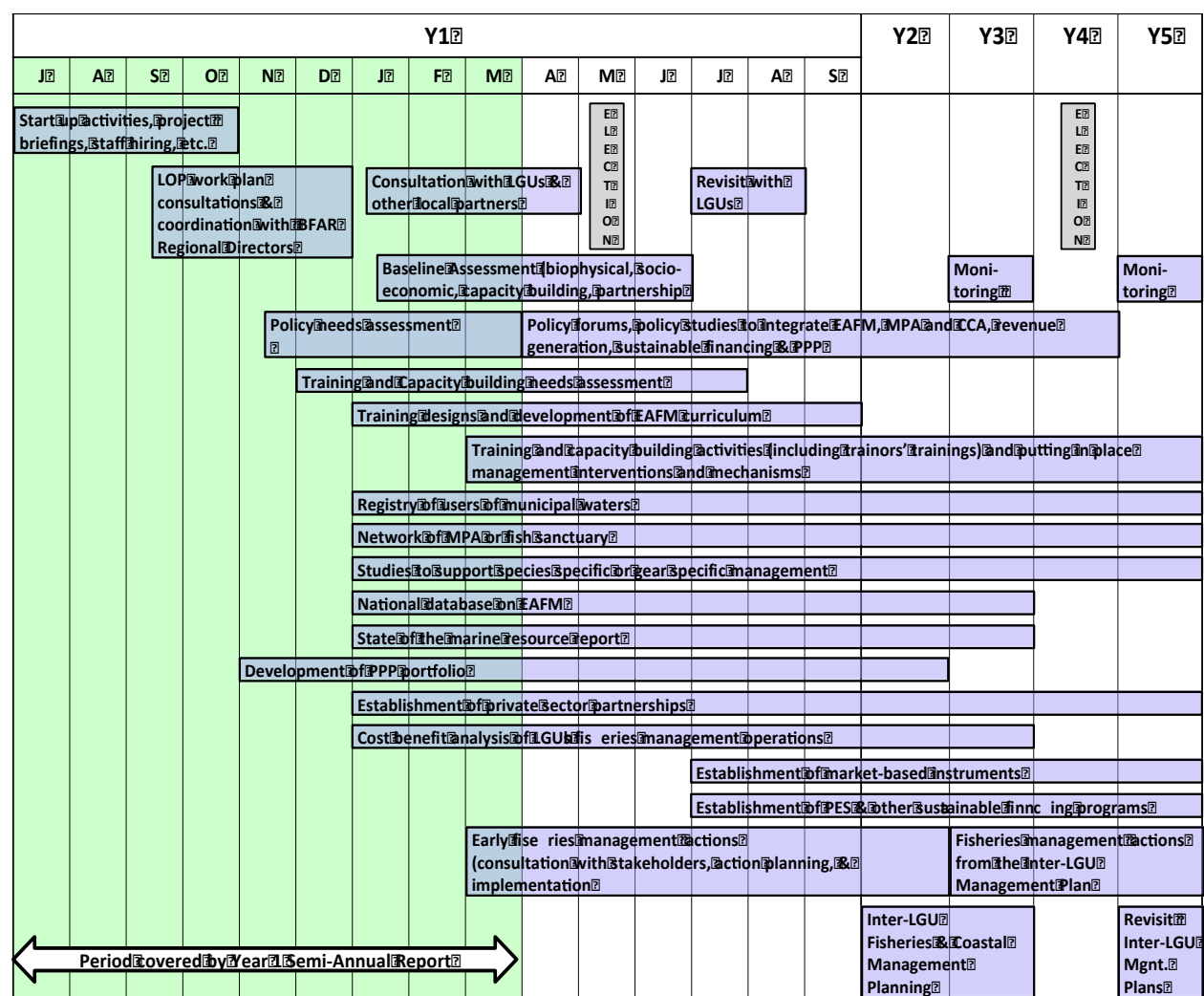
- Mobilize project resources and formalize engagement with implementation partners
- Develop Life of Project Work Plan, Year 1 Work Plan, and Performance Monitoring Plan
- Conduct baseline assessments
- Start consultation with local partners on potential early fisheries management actions in each MKBA
- Commence policy reviews and initiate collaborative arrangements for national policy improvements
- Consult with national partners on the establishment of ECOFISH Technical Working Group
- Develop institutional arrangements with stakeholder groups in each MKBA
- Initiate consultation with local and national partners on constituency building strategies
- Establish offices and recruit staff in Manila, Cebu and the eight MKBAs

In the initial phase of project implementation, the start up activities were crucial in ensuring that all development partners were not just officially on board but, more importantly, were already involved in detailed planning of project interventions and supporting activities at various levels. The support of DA-BFAR at the national level is crucial in moving forward policy instruments to implement EAFM; and at the regional and provincial levels for the implementation of the suite of activities the project intends to implement in the MKBAs. Dialogues with other agencies were also initiated at this early stage to define their roles and ultimately get their support for targeted activities within their respective mandates. In the eight MKBAs, ownership by local governments of the project is key to the success of initiatives at the site level. This has to start with the recognition by local government executives of the need to manage their fisheries and coastal resources, as well as a good understanding of the objectives of the project. The project team decided to go through a round of formal introduction of the ECOFISH Project to the LGUs and other local stakeholders, similar to a “roadshow”. This likewise served as benchmarking of the capacity of local partners to implement EAFM, as well as assessment of training and other capacity building needs of partner LGUs.

Baseline assessment, primarily for establishing the biophysical and socioeconomic status in the eight MKBAs has started. By the end of Year 1 all baseline data will have been collected and analyzed. The baseline information will not only serve as reference point for the project results, but will likewise be used for designing fisheries and socioeconomic interventions. The baseline collection activities were designed in such a way that they will also serve as start up information for capacity building programs (including the assessment of level of governance, training needs assessment and climate vulnerability assessment). The biophysical, socio-economic and governance information will likewise serve as basis for determining and setting in place early fisheries management actions as well as inputs to inter-LGU fisheries management planning.

The subsequent monitoring events in years 3 and 5 will provide the basis for measuring project results as well as evaluate the capacity of partners to implement EAFM.

Figure 2 summarizes the general calendar of ECOFISH activities and interventions for the life of project (showing a higher time resolution during the first year of the project). Indicated in the figure is the period covered by this Year 1 Semi-Annual Report. These activities and interventions are planned to culminate during specific periods and their scheduled year of completion are described in the LOP Work Plan. The activities for this reporting period are mostly foundational work or initial steps that will lead to the accomplishment of the project deliverables.



**Figure 2. General Calendar of ECOFISH Activities and Interventions Highlighting the Year 1 Activities and Indicating Period Covered by the Year 1 Semi-Annual Report**

## **4. Year 1 Semi-Annual Accomplishments**

### **4.1. Start-Up Activities**

The ECOFISH Project was successfully launched last 17 October 2012 with the DA Secretary, USAID officials and staff, BFAR Director, regional directors, division heads and staff, and representatives of mass media, academic and research institutions in attendance. Over 200 guests witnessed the ceremonial unveiling of the ECOFISH Project site map showing the location of the eight marine key biodiversity areas (MKBAs) where ECOFISH will be implemented. In their keynote messages, the DA Secretary and BFAR Director committed to pursue BFAR's current institutional thrust and direction of enhancing fish productivity through resource conservation and management, while USAID's OECC Chief declared the Agency's continued support to the government's initiatives at conserving biodiversity, natural resources and the environment. The launch activity was followed by an exhibit tour and press conference, as well as an orientation/consultation workshop on the ECOFISH Project.

Right after the launching activities, DA-BFAR regional directors in the ECOFISH project sites, concerned division heads, ECOFISH staff and project partners convened for the orientation workshop and initial consultation which sought to: (1) promote an understanding of ECOFISH objectives and scope; (2) level off expectations and understanding of focal area selection in the MKBAs; (3) identify existing activities in each of the MKBAs (generating information from partners, projects and NGOs for the purpose of establishing thematic and geographic synergies); (4) generate criteria from the perspective of the DA-BFAR regional directors in the identification of ECOFISH focal sites; and (5) identify candidate focal areas in each of the MKBAs. Large maps of the eight MKBAs were displayed around the conference room to serve as ready reference for discussions.

This formal orientation and initial consultation was followed by a more detailed consultation with BFAR National Section Heads and Regional Directors on the ECOFISH Life of Project (LOP) Work Plan during the BFAR Planning Meeting on 13 November 2012 at the DAP, Tagaytay City. This included a presentation of the details of the project deliverables, incorporation of comments and suggestions, and final selection of focal areas, expansion areas and replication areas of the project. The 13 November 2012 consultation also served as the official starting date for the site coordinators to conduct formal orientation and consultations with LGU executives and other partners in their respective sites. Before that, ECOFISH site level activities were confined to short briefing sessions and introduction meetings with likely local partners. The BFAR Director explicitly instructed the ECOFISH team not to conduct any site activity before the go-ahead from the National and Regional Directors is secured. This is to avoid confusion and overlaps with other on-going as well as planned projects.

ECOFISH conducted an operational planning meeting involving all project staff during 18-20 December 2012 in Cebu City. Activities included briefing and discussions of the LOP, Year 1 Annual Work Plan and the results framework; enhancement inputs from thematic leads; detailed operational planning of site level work plan for the remaining part of Year 1; dialogue with the

BFAR Director on coordination and reporting requirements; and discussions with site coordinators on immediate next steps, reporting and other submissions, and schedules.

On 18 January 2013, the team presented the Year 1 Annual Work Plan to BFAR National Section Heads and Regional Directors. This half-day activity included the presentation of the details of Year 1 project deliverables, followed by discussion, incorporation of recommended changes and approval by the Regional Directors. Presentation and orientation about ECOFISH with the National partners (DA, DENR, DILG, NAPC, NEDA, LMP, NFR, PNP, PCG and various NGOs) followed in the afternoon.

From January to March 2013, the Project was introduced to partner LGUs and stakeholders by way of two-day orientation workshops in six of the eight MKBAs - South Negros, Danajon Bank-Bohol, Lingayen Gulf, Calamianes Group of Islands, Surigao del Norte and TawiTawi. These orientation workshops were attended by representatives from LGUs, NGAs, donor-funded projects and NGO/civil society from the following focal municipalities: (1) South Negros: Cauayan, Sipalay City, Hinobaan, Basay, Bayawan City, Santa Catalina, Siaton; (2) Lingayen Gulf: Agoo, Aringay, Bauang, Caba, Rosario, San Fernando City, Alaminos, Santo Tomas; (3) Calamianes Group of Islands: Coron, Busuanga, Culion and Linapacan; (4) Danajon Bank-Bohol: Buenavista, Clarin, Getafe, Inabanga, Tubigon; (5) Surigao del Norte: Surigao City, Taganaan, Placer, Bacuag, Gigaquit and Claver; and (6) Tawi-Tawi: Bongao, Simunul, Panglima Sugala, Sapa-Sapa, Tandubas and South Ubian. Orientation workshops for the remaining two MKBAs, Ticao Pass - San Bernardino Strait - Lagonoy Gulf and Verde Island Passage are scheduled for June 2013 (after the May 2013 elections).

In addition to introducing the ECOFISH Project to partners at the local level, these participatory two-day orientation workshops sought participants' inputs into the following: (1) status, identification and mapping of their fisheries and coastal resources and their resource uses; (2) identification and mapping of priority fisheries and coastal resource problems, issues and concerns; (3) identification/mapping of current fisheries and coastal resources management initiatives and projects; (4) assessment and benchmarking of local fisheries governance; (5) development of action plans and identification of early management options primarily on very obvious fisheries intervention needs. The outputs of the orientation workshops were most useful in initially assessing governance levels of these municipalities and the management actions to be continued or undertaken.

The search for local and national champions for sustainable and responsible fisheries is ongoing. Discussions have been initiated with the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) to continue LMP's MOREFISH Program or Movement for Responsible Fisheries. Identification of champions at the local and national level will take on a more accelerated mode upon completion of the national and local elections in May 2013.

A unique feature in ECOFISH's start up activity is the need to comply with specific requirement or clearance from autonomously governed areas in the Philippines, particularly the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) where the Tawi-Tawi MKBA and the Calamianes Island Group MKBA respectively belong. A meeting with the BFAR Regional Director of ARMM and the formal assignment and



designation of a focal person for ECOFISH in the region has been completed for the Tawi-Tawi MKBA. However, the PCSD required from ECOFISH a Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) clearance for the project to be allowed to conduct its activities in the Calamianes Group of Islands. The SEP clearance system in Palawan is a requirement under Republic Act 7611 (Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act). ECOFISH has already complied with the necessary documentation and the evaluation of the project for SEP clearance is ongoing. PCSD, however, allowed the project to go ahead with its operations while the clearance is being processed.

## 4.2. Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA and Climate Change

The focus of the policy support and capacity-building components for the first three quarters of the Project was to build a solid foundation for working with government partners, primarily with BFAR at the national, regional and provincial levels as well as with LGUs. This is to ensure that Project activities and outputs are aligned with the priorities of the partners, and contribute significantly to national and local efforts to implement EAFM. It is now clear to all partners that ECOFISH is a project of the Philippine government, specifically that of BFAR, with support from USAID. This has several positive implications:

- BFAR has full ownership of the project and will back the project with its resources;
- ECOFISH becomes a tool for BFAR to demonstrate, in specific project sites, the priority programs/activities of the Bureau, which will be replicated in all other areas through its Regional offices;
- The programs and activities designed by ECOFISH with BFAR will have national scope and significance (although the Project will only implement in its 8 sites).

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 1.

<b>Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA and Climate Change</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Conduct studies on EAFM policies and policy implementation in providing an enabling environment for EAFM</b>					
Consultation meeting with BFAR Director and key BFAR units on priorities for policy studies		C			
FGD with BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, LMP, NEDA, NFR and other key partners to validate priority policy studies and define their scope		C			
Conduct policy studies and draft relevant legal instrument to implement recommendations		O	O		
Conduct national/regional consultations to validate study results			O		
Submit policy studies to BFAR or other relevant implementing agency for consideration/adoption; monitor progress of agency consideration/adoption					
<b>Conduct policy forums with relevant stakeholder groups</b>					

Consultation meeting with BFAR Director and key BFAR units on priorities for policy forums (e.g. on-going policy initiatives)		C			
FGD with BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, LMP, NEDA, NFR and other key partners to validate priority issues for discussion		C			
Conduct national/regional forums on 2 of the priority issues; document discussions and recommendations		O	O		
Share results of forums with key partners and general public					
<b>Conduct policy studies to integrate CTI themes, (EAFM, MPAs, and CCA) into existing policy instruments</b>					
Review CTI's common regional framework for legislation and policy that would support EAFM, relevant legislative and policy priorities under the PDP		O	O		
FGD with BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, LMP, NEDA, NFR and other key partners to validate priority policy studies and define their scope		O	O		
Conduct policy studies and draft relevant legal instrument to implement recommendations			O		
Conduct national/regional consultations to validate study results			O		
Submit policy studies to relevant implementing agency for consideration/adoption; monitor progress of agency consideration/adoption					
<b>Conduct policy studies on revenue generation, sustainable financing, and PPPs to support sustainable fisheries management</b>					
FGD with BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, LMP, NEDA, DTI, DOF, NFR and other key partners to validate priority policy studies and define their scope		O	O		
Conduct policy studies and draft relevant legal instrument to implement recommendations			O		
Conduct scoping study and initial meetings with selected representatives of DOJ, DOF, DA, DTI and DBM on potential national fiscal instruments that can contribute to sustainable fisheries management and on existing fiscal instruments that are hampering sustainable fisheries management		O	O		
Conduct national/regional consultations to validate study results			O		
Prepare initial meeting materials for presentation to national government representatives (DOJ, DOF, DA, DTI, DBM)			O		
Submit policy studies to relevant implementing agency for consideration/adoption; monitor progress of agency consideration/adoption					
<b>Team Lead: Senior Governance and Institutional Development Specialist, Chief of Party</b> <b>Key Partners: BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, NEDA, DTI, DOF, DOJ, DBM, LMP, NFR, NFARMC, commercial fishing sector</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 1 during the reporting period include:

- Project team members met with BFAR Director and Regional Directors on several occasions (project launch, presentation of LOP and Y1 Work Plan, meetings with RDs at project sites) to discuss policy directions and priorities of BFAR (both national and local) and how ECOFISH can be utilized as a tool for developing and demonstrating implementation of national priority initiatives related to EAFM. Based on these meetings, BFAR identified several priorities including: (1) fisherfolk registration, (2) capacity-building framework for LGU fishery personnel, (3) law enforcement, (4) livelihood support for municipal fisherfolk.
- Project team members also met with other potential government partners (NAPC, DENR, LCP, LMP, DBM, NEDA, and others) during the Project launch and in separate meetings, to brief the agencies about the project and to explore potential synergies. This has resulted, for example, in linking BFAR, DBM and NSO in developing a design for a revitalized municipal fisherfolk registration program that utilizes data from the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) initiated by DBM and NSO. ECOFISH also explored synergy between BFAR and NAPC initiatives for fisherfolk livelihood options that will be linked to fisheries management interventions.
- As a follow through to the request of BFAR for support in revitalizing municipal fisherfolk registration, ECOFISH worked closely with BFAR to design FishR – the National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration. FishR has been approved by BFAR and will be launched in May 2013.
- We also made initial consultations and studies to design a national capacity-building program for LGU fishery staff that is linked to the assistance packages that BFAR currently provides to the LGUs. The initial studies and consultations will guide development of a structured training curriculum, which will initially be offered to partner LGUs in the Project sites. The training curriculum will incorporate all trainings conducted under the various components of the Project.
- ECOFISH provided support for the final consultation and refinement of the Fisheries Law Enforcement Manual, an initiative of BFAR that is also supported by the USDOT.
- Project specialists met with NGOs, development partners, academic institutions, business sector groups and project implementers to explore collaborations in policy studies and proposals related to climate change adaptation, sustainable financing and PPPs. Initial results include potential PPPs to support municipal fisherfolk registration and joint studies to review fines, penalties and damage compensation in fisheries law violations.
- A roundtable discussion was held jointly with ADB's CTI-SEA project to discuss current government programs related to conditional cash transfer (CCT), and how such programs can be tapped to directly support sustainable fisheries management. NAPC's bottom-up budgeting (BuB) and the cash for work program were presented. ECOFISH is currently discussing with NAPC on how best to concretize the partnership between the project and the agency, particularly in implementing the BuB in its MKBAs and how it can be tied with EAFM objectives.
- NAPC is also in talks with the project on the crafting of a National Poverty Reduction Plan in the Fishing Sector. The Plan will be similar to the coconut roadmap that NAPC drafted for the coconut farming sector. In essence, the Plan will lay out the roadmap on

how to comprehensively address and alleviate poverty in the fishing sector, to include all parts of the government bureaucracy needed to realize the strategies. ECOFISH efforts with NAPC are in recognition of the fact that the widespread poverty in fishing communities is one of the greatest threats to coastal marine biodiversity.

### 4.3. Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA and Climate Change

The team had a successful formal launch of the ECOFISH Project generating wholehearted support from the DA-BFAR community, academe and research institutions, partner NGOs, mass media and civil society. ECOFISH was introduced to partner LGUs by way of a two-day inter-LGU and stakeholder orientation workshops generating their commitments to partnership. The orientation workshops also provided initial information on governance levels of partner municipalities, information and training needs of LGUs as well as early management actions/interventions to be continued or undertaken by the respective municipalities.

The project initiated steps to develop an EBFM start-up guide for LGUs through review of existing materials developed by the Fish Project, MERF and partners as well as the integration of CTI- developed modules on climate change adaptation (CCA). Various information materials on ECOFISH were developed for use in the launch and subsequent orientation activities and also became the initial set of IEC materials for subsequent activities.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 2.

<b>Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Review existing toolkits (Municipal Fisheries Management source book (Volume 1), and other guidance</b>					
Assist BFAR in launching ECOFISH Project among partners and stakeholders		O	O		
Assist ECOFISH team in the conduct of “handshake activities” with partners and stakeholders to generate ownership of project objectives and initiatives		O	O		
Review, reproduce/reprint where appropriate, previous FISH Project IEC materials for use at new MKBA sites		O	O		
With partners, undertake scoping activities and formulate a strategic information, education, communication (IEC) plan at the national and site levels based on the Project's key result areas and capacity-building goals. IEC plan to identify and establish learning and behavioral outcomes of IEC program		O	O		
<b>Develop and produce EAFM start-up guide for LGUs</b>					

Develop and produce initial IEC materials to establish ECOFISH Project identity and messages		O	O		
<b>Develop case studies on the integration of CTI themes (EAFM, MPAs, and CCA) at the site level</b>					
Consultation among ECOFISH team members on the materials to be used for EAFM, MPA and CCA for the trainings in the MKBAs	O	C			
Consolidation of training materials to form the toolkit for the EAFM, MPA and CCA training for MKBAs		O	O		
Development of MPA training, fisheries toolkits, etc. for the MKBAs		O	O		
Development of Climate Change Adaptation training toolkits for the MKBAs		O	O		
Development of EAFM training toolkit for the MKBAs		O	O		
Produce popularized case studies/information materials at the site level integrating CTI themes on EAFM, MPAs, and climate change.			O		
Activate/update monthly <a href="http://www.oneocean.org">www.oneocean.org</a> website to serve as the official website of ECOFISH Project; use website and social media as information channels of the Project.		O	O		
Identify and initiate working relationships with "champions" and advocates of sustainable fisheries at the national and local levels		O	O		
Expand EAFM constituency, identify and initiate alliances and synergy/partnerships with strategic sectors, public-private partnerships and social organizations at national and project site levels.		O	O		
<b>Develop Municipal Fisheries Management Toolkit series (update Volume 1, develop additional volumes)</b>					
Evaluate and prioritize the update and next volume to be developed		O	O		
<b>Develop and produce Fishery Law Enforcement Procedural Handbook</b>					
Review existing handbooks and manuals used directly or as reference by BFAR or LGUs in enforcing fishery laws		O	C		
Conduct an FGD with key personnel/agencies involved in the full range of enforcement continuum to identify printed materials needed for compliance promotion or enforcement		O	O		
Develop draft of identified printed materials needed for compliance promotion and enforcement		O	O		
<b>Produce fishery law enforcement instructional video</b>					
Review existing enforcement materials in video format		O	O		
Conduct an FGD with key personnel/agencies involved in the full range of enforcement continuum to identify video materials needed for compliance promotion or enforcement		O	O		
Develop concept/story line for video production		O	O		
Identify for showcasing, and as potential learning destinations, successful municipalities and communities implementing EAFM in MKBA sites to expand constituencies and promote strategic spread.			O		
Team Lead: IEC Specialist, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, Regulation and Enforcement Specialist, and MERF Key Partners: BFAR, DILG, PNP, LMP, university network, NFR					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 2 during the reporting period include:

- The two-day orientation workshops also served as scoping activity for the information and training needs of partners at the local level. It was quite clear that the concept of ecosystems approaches to fisheries management was still quite vague to participants and underscored the need for more popularized information materials on what constitutes an ecosystems approach. It is anticipated that by the end of the first year, an information, education, communication (IEC) program will be formulated at the national and site levels based on the Project's key result areas and capacity building goals. Information generated from the bio-physical and socio-economic baseline researches will also serve as primary information for the development of these IEC plans.
- As part of the consultations to design a national capacity-building program for LGU fishery staff, ECOFISH conducted a review of existing toolkits (Municipal Fisheries Management Source Book - Volume 1), and other materials used by BFAR and training institutions.
- Consultations have been taken with various partners regarding a comprehensive and integrated training program on sustainable fisheries resulting in a draft curriculum that is presently being refined and validated. The major "product" of these training programs are user-friendly toolkits on Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for LGUs. Consultations have likewise been conducted with the Regional Manager of the US Coral Triangle Initiative –Program Integrator (CTI-PI) regarding the integration of CTI training modules into the proposed curriculum.
- Reviewed, reproduced and reprinted previous FISH Project IEC materials for use at new MKBA sites. Reprinted the pamphlet "Go Easy on the Sea" for distribution during the launch activity and the orientation workshops in the six MKBAs. Updated and printed three FISH Project posters on Tawi-Tawi which detailed the FISH Project story in Tawi-Tawi. For the new municipalities (Tandubas, Sapa-Sapa and South Ubian) of the focal area, the posters provided useful information and served as an effective introduction and segue to the ECOFISH Project. Currently in the works are updated posters on each of the ECOFISH Project sites.
- Development of an LGU start-up guide on EAFM is also ongoing, using as initial basis the FISH Project-produced reference material "Managing Municipal Marine Capture Fisheries in the Philippines: Context, Framework, Concepts and Principles", as well as the various studies and references developed by MERF on ecosystem-based coastal vulnerability assessment (VA) tools designed to be applied at the "barangay" to municipal levels. These VA tools are intended to help capacitate LGUs in disaster risk management and in carrying out preventive strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on their coastal and fisheries resources.
- Brainstorming sessions have also been conducted with the Compliance and Enforcement Specialist regarding the production of a law enforcement training module and its accompanying instructional video. A search for independent production companies has been conducted and talks initiated regarding the modality of such productions. Government and private sector partners are also being considered to help defray the costs of production.

- The orientation workshops in the MKBAs also provided initial information regarding the potential of some sites as learning destinations for fisheries and coastal resource management. In addition to FISH Project sites, a good number of municipalities supported by other donors also showed potential to serve as learning destinations for educational/ study tours, cross visits and even tourism destinations.
- ECOFISH supported the review and finalization of the Fishery Law Enforcement Manual prepared by BFAR with support from USDOL. Instead of developing another manual or handbook, ECOFISH will use the Manual in the training program and provide feedback to BFAR if further refinement of the Manual is needed.

#### 4.4. Deliverable 3: A National Database on EAFM Established Using the Annual Monitoring Data in the 8 MKBAs

The immediate step in establishing a national database on EAFM at this early stage was to review existing fisheries databases used by national and regional agencies. Also, a review and further improvement of the fisheries database developed under the FISH Project was also conducted. This database was used by FISH Project to store and retrieve information on fisher registration, fishing craft registration, licensing of fishing operation, and catch and effort monitoring. The database is currently under the process of improvement and expansion to accommodate other database requirements of ECOFISH, such as inclusion of socioeconomic information, enforcement, and climate change adaptation parameters. Also, the database system will have to be linked with other systems such as the fisherfolk registration database, MPA Support Network (MSN) database and the USCTI initiated databases.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 3.

<b>Deliverable 3: A National Database on EAFM Established Using the Annual Monitoring Data in the 8 MKBAs</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Review existing fisheries database and identify additional types and sources of data needed for EAFM</b>					
Inventory and evaluation of existing databases that support fisheries resources management and other EAFM components like information on socio-economics, enforcement, registration and licensing		O	O		
Consultation with partners and agree on arrangements for the integration of information for the national database system			O		
<b>Develop national database</b>					
Review and further improve the fisheries database developed under FISH Project and make it available for the rest of the MKBAs		O	O		
Consult with BFAR and partners to integrate with database developed by BFAR (for the fishers registration system)			O		
<b>Develop protocol for data collection &amp; entry in the national database</b>					



Consult with partners regarding data requirement, data forms, data collection and encoding system			O		
Develop system of incorporating various sources into one national database			O		
Test the database system in selected focal areas of MKBAs (until part of Year 2)					
<b>Develop protocols for fish catch monitoring system to become part of the National Stock Assessment Program</b>					
Initiate agreement with NSAP on a system for integration of fisheries information from the MKBAs in to the NSAP database					
<b>Develop protocols for benchmarking local EAFM</b>					
Review EAFM benchmarking developed under FISH as well as other fisheries management monitoring systems developed by other institutions			O		
Integrate socioeconomics and enforcement benchmarks into the EAFM benchmarking system			O		
<b>Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, GIS-KIM Specialist</b>					
<b>Key Partners: BFAR, DILG, LMP, DENR</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 3 during the reporting period include:

- Conducted the inventory and evaluation of existing databases that support fisheries, particularly ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM).
- Initiated the further development and improvement of the fisheries database system developed under the FISH Project and modification of features for the database to be compatible with the existing and future modified database of BFAR.
- Initiated the improvement and expansion of the fisheries database to accommodate other database requirements of ECOFISH such as inclusion of socioeconomic information, enforcement, and climate change adaptation parameters.

#### 4.5. Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report

ECOFISH started with the review of the State of the Coral Triangle Report (SCTR), to determine the elements that the project can contribute to, and start with them as the core of the proposed State of the Marine Resources Report. Towards the second half of the year, ECOFISH will then start conducting review sessions and workshops with partners to develop the framework and finalize task assignments among various partners for the development and drafting of various sections of the report.



The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 4.

<b>Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Review protocols and status of CTI efforts in knowledge management and State of the Coral Triangle Report</b>					
Review the State of the Coral Triangle Report		O	O		
Determine the elements ECOFISH can contribute and the potential collaborating agencies and institutions			O		
<b>Develop a framework for the State of the Marine Resources Report with partners and informed by CTI efforts</b>					
Present to partners the proposed elements of the State of Marine Resources Report			O		
Develop with partners the framework and agree on specific tasks in developing the report			O		
<b>Conduct workshops and review sessions with partners to develop sections of the report</b>					
Workshops with partners to finalize assignments for the development and drafting of various sections of the report					
<b>Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, MERF, GIS-KIM Specialist</b>					
<b>Key Partners: BFAR, DENR, LMP, university network, WWF</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 4 during the reporting period include:

- The State of the Coral Triangle Report (SCTR) is still being drafted and is expected to be published by the USCTI in the coming months. Review of this document by ECOFISH can only be completed once the document is published. The initial working draft has been reviewed indicating that the SCTR covers a broad range of elements relevant to the entire Coral Triangle Initiative, and fisheries is just one of them. ECOFISH's State of Marine Resources Report will more or less follow a similar outline and pattern but focus more on the fisheries resources management issues and interventions.
- Discussed with MERF regarding the process of developing the framework for the State of the Marine Resources Report. It was agreed that a small core group will convene to develop the first draft of the outline and plan for the workshop with a larger range of partners to finalize the outline and the assignment of tasks for drafting of the various sections of the report.

#### **4.6. Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted**

The focus at this early stage of project implementation was on the design of the overall capacity building program and the possible individual courses that comprise the training curriculum. The

team agreed that the courses should build on the range of coastal and fisheries resources management courses recently developed by BFAR, DENR, various projects (CRMP, FISH, ECOGOV) and academic institutions. They will be enhanced by courses and toolkits recently developed by institutions and organizations implementing the various components of the US Coral Triangle Initiative.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 5.

<b>Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Conduct a training needs assessment</b>					
Consultation meeting with BFAR Director and key BFAR units on priorities and scope of trainings needed	O	C			
FGD with BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, LMP, NEDA, NFR and other key partners to validate priority training needs for national agencies and local governments		O	O		
Workshop with ECOFISH team to discuss results of needs assessment and response strategy		O	O		
<b>Develop EAFM training curriculum</b>					
Workshop with ECOFISH team to design curriculum		O	C		
FGD with BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, LMP, NEDA, NFR and other key partners to validate scope and general content of training curriculum for national agencies and local governments			O		
Workshop with ECOFISH team and lecturers/trainers on scope and content of curriculum			O		
<b>Conduct training needs assessment of partners in the MKBAs and develop a training program to enable them implement various elements of EAFM</b>					
Consultation with LGUs, NGOs and POs on the current state of fisheries management initiatives in the MKBAs			O		
Develop an inventory and priority of training requirements of partners to implement EAFM and target audience for each EAFM course			O		
Develop a training program for various elements of EAFM including schedule of delivery through the life of project			O		
<b>Develop or refine training courses</b>					
Workshop with ECOFISH team and lecturers/trainers on scope and content of relevant training courses under the curriculum		O	C		
Workshop (together with selected key partners) to field test training courses			O		
Finalize and package training course materials (for trainers and trainees)			O		
Design course/curriculum evaluation system					
<b>Provide complementary scientific and technical support in the training series for National Quick Response Team on fishery law enforcement</b>					

Consultation meeting with BFAR Director and key BFAR units on priorities (sites, capacity level) on fishery law enforcement		O	C		
Conduct a capacity building need assessment for members of the National BFAR QRT		O	O		
Develop a menu of capacity building interventions for the QRT		O	O		
Develop a training module and execute the module on pilot basis			O		
Develop a trainers training program and execute on pilot basis in one MKBA					
Provide support to QRT or any member of QRT who has opportunity to be trained in a relevant specialized skill					
Conduct national training for NQRT (participants include those from priority sites)		O	O		
Design/enhance evaluation system and conduct evaluation of training			O		
Prepare schedule and tasking for training series for MKBA QRTs					
<b>Team Lead: Senior Governance and Institutional Development Specialist, IEC Specialist, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, Regulation and Enforcement Specialist</b> <b>Key Partners: BFAR, DENR, Philippine Coast Guard, PNP, NFARMC and LMP</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 5 during the reporting period include:

- In several meetings with the BFAR National Director, Regional Directors and key BFAR units, the project team discussed priorities and scope of trainings to be conducted under the project and how these can be integrated into the proposed national capacity-building framework for LGUs that BFAR wants to implement. BFAR's interest is that the LGUs develop the technical and administrative capacity to absorb the assistance packages provided by BFAR to the fisheries sector through the LGUs.
- ECOFISH conducted "Benchmarking" consultation-workshops in six of the eight MKBAs, which brought together LGU partners and local representatives of national agencies and civil society to discuss the state of fisheries and coastal management in their area and identify policy and capacity-building priorities. The Benchmarking workshops were able to draw the governance baselines (using pre-designed indicators) that will be used to measure progress of LGU partners in developing their capacity for implementing EAFM. Based on the results of these workshops, ECOFISH will design locally-appropriate policy development and training activities that will be linked to other Project interventions such as fisheries and biodiversity assessment, socio-economic assessment, MPA networking, fisheries management planning, etc.
- The ECOFISH team worked closely with BFAR national units and Regional offices to review existing training programs and develop initial ideas for institutionalizing capacity-building for LGU fisheries staff using a comprehensive, structured, but locally-responsive curriculum that can be used for continuous capacity-building of LGUs. The initial consultations will guide ECOFISH in designing a curriculum, with specific courses, that will be initially offered to ECOFISH partner LGUs. ECOFISH is also exploring partnership with national and local institutions of higher learning to incorporate or adopt the ECOFISH training curriculum as part of advanced degree programs.

- Project specialists met with key BFAR officials to discuss priorities on fishery law enforcement training, especially for the QRTs that BFAR has enlisted. The initial idea is for the national and regional QRTs to join the Project trainings related to law enforcement and act as resource persons or co-trainees. However, it appears that the QRTs are not yet confident enough to be trainers. We have not initiated a formal assessment of the capacity of QRTs (which BFAR should spearhead, if needed), but instead, will make the assessment of individual QRT members in the project sites as part of the design of trainings in each of the MKBAs.

#### 4.7. Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established

At this stage, the focus of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) component of the project was on the identification of strategic partnership opportunities, scoping and mapping exercise to identify livelihood and partnership priorities, and engaging key local government and community stakeholders and champions for future community partnership development, training and implementation.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 6.

<b>Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Develop portfolio of PPPs</b>					
PPP mobilization, staff recruitment and training	O	C			
Identify strategic partnership opportunities using STEP Rapid Partnership Appraisal and Partnership Scorecard. Tourism assessment	O	O	C		
Develop strategic partnerships. Conduct partner negotiations, prepare MOUs, and conduct partnership forums	O	O	O		
Develop community partnerships. Analysis of community partnership. Adapt STEP Community Partnership Module		O	O		
Capacity building. Staff, site managers and stakeholders training and mentoring		O	O		
<b>Establish private sector partnerships</b>					
Conduct scoping activities on which communities can be tapped for potential PPPs		O	O		
Conduct scoping activities on potential private sector partners for PPPs in ECOFISH MKBAs		O	O		
Conduct scoping activities to identify alternative livelihood schemes aside from PPPs for fishing communities			O		
<b>Team Lead: : SSG Advisors Partnership Specialist, Senior Resource Economics Specialist, REECS, SSG</b> <b>Key Partners: BFAR, private sector, LGUs</b>					

ECOFISH is expected to establish a portfolio of PPPs per MKBA consisting of strategic and community partnerships. Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 6 during the reporting period include:

- Developed and submitted the ECOFISH PPP Strategy, outlining the methodology to be adopted and the core issues, challenges and opportunities to be addressed under the ECOFISH project through PPPs.
- Conducted a Rapid Partnership Appraisal of potential strategic partnerships with private sector entities, and submitted the ECOFISH Rapid Partnership Appraisal Document, including a Partnership Scorecard outlining 15 “quick-win” partnerships and “higher impact” partnerships for potential development through Years 1-3 (as consulted through the “gating” process with ECOFISH key personnel).
- Established the ECOFISH community partnership strategy, composed of scoping and mapping exercises and 3 major training modules: Introduction to Community Partnerships, Community Business Planning and Partnership Modeling, and Community Mentorship.
- Established standardized templates for partnership concept notes, MOUs, due diligence, community business plans and letters of commitment.
- Developed standardized training material on PPP establishment for national and local partners in line with the ECOFISH Partnership Strategy.
- Initiated discussions with the PPP Center of the Philippines under the National Economic Development Authority of the Philippines for potential formalized training of national and local champions on traditional PPP development.
- Conducted scoping and mapping exercises in the Danajon Reef, Calamianes, and Verde Island Passage MKBAs and identified more than 30 livelihood and partnership priorities, and engaged key local government and community stakeholders and champions for future community partnership development, training and implementation.
- Scoped and interviewed more than 20 potential partners from the private and public sectors as outlined in the ECOFISH Rapid Partnership Appraisal.

#### **4.8. Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs**

The project team finalized the scope of work for baseline assessments and agreed on the methodologies to be used. The Baseline Assessment Plan is currently being finalized to serve as basis for the collection of data during this base year and subsequent collection of data during the monitoring events (2015 and 2017). To measure key project results, the team initiated collection of information that will establish the fisheries biomass (using fishery-dependent surveys and MPA assessment methods) and information that will establish employment or better employment using variables that will indicate economic wealth both at the household and community levels. Collection of other parameters to be monitored during the life of the project such as the capacity of local governments to implement EAFM and improvement in law enforcement capabilities were likewise initiated.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 7.

<b>Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Conduct fisheries baseline assessment and monitoring</b>					
Identify and finalize focal areas in the MKBAs	O	O	C		
Coordination with LGUs covering the selected focal areas		O	C		
Hiring and training of personnel		O	O		
Selection and finalization of sampling sites		O	O		
Data collection and analysis		O	O		
<b>Conduct MPA baseline assessment and monitoring (as part of MPA establishment)</b>					
Identify and finalize focal areas in the MKBAs		O	C		
Coordination with LGUs covering the selected focal areas		O	C		
Hiring and training of personnel		O	O		
Selection and finalization of MPA sites		O	O		
Data collection and analysis		O	O		
<b>Conduct socioeconomic baseline assessment and monitoring</b>					
Conduct scoping activities in 8 MKBAs, to determine where assessments are already available and where to conduct primary surveys, gather locally available data		O	O		
Conduct FGDs, KIIs and household surveys in MKBAs			O		
<b>Conduct enforcement baseline assessment and monitoring</b>					
Develop instrument for conducting baseline for enforcement		O	C		
Conduct workshop/FGD to establish baseline and benchmarks			O		
<b>Conduct governance baseline assessment and monitoring using benchmarking system in MKBA focal area LGUs</b>					
Review LGU benchmarking developed under FISH and EAFM benchmarking developed under CTI		O	O		
Agree and develop with team partners the standard benchmarking to use			O		
Field testing of benchmarking process in selected MKBAs					
<b>Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, MERF, Senior Resource Economics Specialist, GIS KIM Specialist</b> <b>Key Partners: BFAR, NSAP, University network</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 7 during the reporting period include:

- Fisheries baseline assessment has commenced in Danajon Reef and Calamianes Island Group MKBAs. Trainings on fisheries catch and effort collection for enumerators were conducted during the first week of March in Danajon Reef MKBA and during the second week of March in the Calamianes Island Group MKBA. Data collection will be for a period of three months and will end in the middle of June. Preparation is ongoing for the 6 other MKBAs and their starting dates will be staggered from April to May. All data

collection will be done by the middle of August and data will be consolidated towards the first week of September.

- Preparation for MPA baseline assessments for all the eight MKBAS is on-going and the actual data collection will commence in April to June. All data collection will be done by August and reef fish biomass, number of species, and hard coral cover data will be consolidated towards the end of that month. These will serve as baseline for the MPA interventions in the eight MKBAs.
- Socio-economic baseline surveys have been initiated in the MKBAs. The surveys are at various stages of implementation. Two have been completed, two are ongoing, and three are to be initiated in the coming weeks. The last socio-economic baseline survey will be set up in June, by which time all data from the seven MKBAs would be undergoing processing. A total of 540 households are being surveyed per MKBA, or 180 fishing households per municipality.
- FGDs are being conducted with each of the three focal areas in each MKBA. The FGDs will reveal future directions of the work of the project resource economist, whereby potential sustainable financing schemes would be identified, along with poverty alleviation strategies in the fisheries sector. Initial data mapping for the cost benefit analysis (CBA) in deliverable 8 is also being done through the FGDs.

#### 4.9. Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species

As indicated in the LOP Work Plan, scientific studies to support species-specific and gear-specific fisheries management interventions will peak towards Years 2 and 3. The identification of these species, fisheries commodities, fishing gears, or issues that require scientific studies will be guided by information generated from the baseline assessment activities, focus group discussions, fisheries profiles, and existing fisheries management plans of LGUs in the MKBAs. The recent ECOFISH orientation and benchmarking activities have also generated initial information to be used with LGUs or cluster of LGUs to formulate early fisheries management actions.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 8.

<b>Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Determine and establish trophic interactions and appropriate fishing effort configuration using Ecopath model (Year 1 for former FISH Project focal areas)</b>					
Develop trophic models for MKBAs covering former FISH project areas		O	O		
Develop various choice scenarios on effort configuration in former FISH project sites			O		
Consultation with stakeholders on establishing appropriate fishing effort in former FISH project sites					



<b>Identify species-specific or fishing gear studies based on results of baseline assessment (in new MKBA focal areas)</b>					
Study on the effect of perturbation (e.g. fishing pressure, habitat degradation) on the status of the population and stocks of important target species					
<b>Determine economic values and perform cost-benefit analysis in MKBA focal area LGUs</b>					
Set up database and gather locally available secondary data for CBA, establish baselines (can be combined with the baseline assessments)					
<b>Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, MERF, Senior Resource Economics Specialist</b> <b>Key Partners: BFAR, SEAFDEC, University network (SAF may be used to support these institutions)</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 8 during the reporting period include:

- The activities under this deliverable are mostly start-up activities primarily to establish the trophic interaction to ultimately determine the fishing effort configuration for the cluster of municipalities in the focal areas. Information collected during the FISH project provided the information for establishing the trophic interactions specific for those sites.
- The activities for the first half of year 1 included compilation of database of basic inputs and results of Philippine Ecopath with Ecosim (EwE) models, South East Asian models, tropical reef models, and other marine systems models; compilation of mortality rates and exploitation ratios (Z, M, E) of fishes from studies of various Philippine fishing grounds; and revisit of Danajon Bank 2010 EwE model, recalibration of inputs and review of outputs.
- Local governments and organizations involved in the management of the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor (VIPMC) has tasked ECOFISH to provide the scientific and technical advise for VIP fisheries initiatives, particularly on the establishment of a “closed season” for small pelagics in the area. The team will design the action research to determine the appropriate “no take” period, develop the guidelines to set up the intervention, and provide scientific advise during its implementation.

#### 4.10. Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs

MPA network analyses for sites not covered under the FISH Project are scheduled for completion by the second year of project implementation. At this stage, activities are focused mainly on initial steps that will lead to the establishment of individual MPAs and preparation for MPA baseline assessments. In the former FISH Project sites, networks of MPAs were established but recent surveys indicate that management of many component MPAs were not sustained. The project team decided to subject these MPAs to an assessment and evaluation process using the MPA Evaluation and Assessment Tool (MEAT). Details of these are given Section 5 (Site-Level Accomplishments).

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 9.



<b>Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Conduct hydrodynamic study and dispersal modeling</b>					
Develop hydrodynamic models for selected network of MPA sites					
Conduct site activities to perform water current studies					
Develop particle tracking models					
<b>Develop MPA network design (includes climate change adaptation strategies)</b>					
Draft MPA network design			O		
Consult with partners until finalization of the MPA network design			O		
<b>Establish MPA network in new MKBAs</b>					
Conduct partner consultations and meetings to set up component MPAs as part of the network			O		
Develop plan to implement component MPAs including tasking, and financing			O		
<b>Strengthen MPA networks in existing MKBA focal areas</b>					
Evaluate existing MPA networks established during FISH Project and determine activities to restore or strengthen the networks			O		
Develop customized capacity building program for MPA networks to promote compliance and enforce regulations			O		
<b>Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, MERF</b>					
<b>Key Partners: BFAR, University network (SAF may be used to support local colleges)</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 9 during the reporting period include:

- Finalized with MERF the scope of work and spatial coverage of the MPA network analysis for the new sites and the necessary modifications for the former FISH Project sites.
- Initiated with site managers the inventory of existing MPAs in the focal areas of the MKBAs and the review of the status of MPAs and the network of MPAs in the former FISH Project sites.

#### **4.11. Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs**

As indicated in the LOP Work Plan, the bulk of project activities to support the inter-LGU fisheries management planning process will be in the second and third year of project implementation. However, gathering and review of existing LGU specific and inter-LGU coastal and fisheries management plans, as well as revisit of integrated management plans of municipalities and cluster of municipalities in the former FISH Project, were already initiated including the evaluation of their enforcement capacities and response capabilities. The ECOFISH orientation and benchmarking exercise also provided the team with good insights into

the suite of necessary activities and their prioritized sequence to ultimately run the process of developing the inter-LGU management plans. Site managers have started the gathering and review of the management plans (details are in Section 5, Site-Level Accomplishments).

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 10.

<b>Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Conduct integrated coastal and fisheries management planning for cluster of municipalities or LGU alliances</b>					
Revisit and review existing integrated coastal and fisheries management plans of sites under FISH and assess with partners and stakeholders the aspects that need to be revived, improved or strengthened			O		
Develop a set of next steps activities to respond to the findings of the review and assessment in former FISH project sites			O		
Conduct activities to revive or strengthen inter-LGU CFRM initiatives in former FISH project sites					
Initiate the introduction of schemes for right sizing of fishing effort in former FISH project sites					
Initiate inter-LGU planning process in new MKBAs					
<b>Provide scientific and technical support in the establishment of coastal and fisheries law enforcement teams (new sites)</b>					
Conduct an inventory of enforcement capacities and response capabilities of select LGUs		O	O		
Conduct refresher courses on fishery law enforcement as intermediate step in establishing enforcement teams through a combination of peer learning and conventional methods					
Conduct trainers training in former FISH sites and identify potential trainers					
<b>Strengthen coastal and fisheries law enforcement teams (former FISH sites)</b>					
Seek all means possible to acquire materials and other kinds of cash and non-cash support to established local enforcement teams		O	O		
Promote peer-to-peer learning through cross visits to MKBAs of similar issues			O		
Provide support to any member or team who has opportunity to be capacitated by other agencies/projects					
Establish a reward and sanction system to increase transparency and accountability					
<b>Build/strengthen inter-LGU regulatory compliance and enforcement capabilities</b>					
Conduct joint operations planning for cluster or alliance of LGUs			O		
Seek all means possible to acquire materials and other kinds of cash and non-cash support to established inter-LGU enforcement teams					

Promote peer-to-peer learning through cross visits to MKBAs with similar issues					
Provide support in documenting best practices			O		
Leverage with other projects or private/public programs that will ensure sustainability of inter-LGU alliance					
Assist in developing compliance promotions and enforcement strategies					
<b>Team Lead: DCOP, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Specialist, Regulation and Enforcement Specialist</b>					
<b>Key Partners: BFAR regional and provincial offices, provincial governments and PNP</b>					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 10 during the reporting period include:

- Gathered and reviewed existing individual LGU and inter-LGU coastal and fisheries management plans.
- Revisited and reviewed integrated management plans of municipalities and cluster of municipalities formulated under the former FISH Project.
- The inventory and review of enforcement capacities and response capabilities of cluster of LGUs that constitute the ECOFISH focal areas are on-going.

#### **4.12. Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs**

For the registry of users of municipal waters, ECOFISH will cover the registry of fishers, fishing boats, and gears. The ultimate objective is to assist the LGUs in developing and maintaining a registry of users of their municipal waters and be able to use the information to manage their coastal and fisheries resources. The system will support initiatives for right sizing of fishing effort for the ultimate goal of sustaining benefits from the use of the fishery resources.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 11.

<b>Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2012</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Registration and licensing training and drafting of ordinance</b>					
Revisit and review existing registration and licensing system of sites under FISH and assess with partners and stakeholders the aspects that need to be revived, improved or strengthened		O	O		
Develop a set of next step activities to respond to the findings of the review and assessment in former FISH project sites			O		
Conduct activities to revive or strengthen registration and licensing system in former FISH project sites					

Draft an assessment tool/instrument to gauge registration and licensing success/failure at the LGU level			O		
Pilot test the assessment tool in select LGUs					
Develop strategy to enhance registration system either through amendment to ordinance or manner of enforcing registration ordinance					
Develop proto-types of model registration and licensing ordinance to cater to different scenarios/conditions					
<b>Registration systems component of national database developed and deployed to LGUs</b>					
Review effectiveness of current system and recommend improvements			O		
Develop field for a national data base on registration out of FGD or key informants					
<b>Training on use of registration system in each MKBA for management</b>					
Develop training module on registration and licensing			O		
Develop criteria in prioritizing LGUs requiring training					
Team Lead: Regulatory and Enforcement Specialist, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist.					
Key Partners: BFAR, LMP, MKBA LGUs					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 11 during the reporting period include:

- ECOFISH conducted an informal (anecdotal) review of implementation of registration and licensing in partner LGUs in the hope of designing measures to increase compliance and efficiency.
- ECOFISH made a breakthrough when it linked BFAR to DBM and NSO to share similar efforts in registering fishers. After several meetings, BFAR decided that the existing fisherfolk registration system should utilize the data already gathered under the RSBSA. ECOFISH provided assistance in developing the details of implementation to enhance the existing BFAR registration system with the RSBSA data. BFAR tasked ECOFISH and key Bureau officials to propose a comprehensive program to enhance the system and revitalize fisherfolk registration nationwide. The result is the National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration (FishR), which was approved by BFAR and is set to be launched in May 2013. ECOFISH will follow-through implementing FishR in the eight MKBAs.

#### **4.13. Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs**

For this deliverable, ECOFISH intends at the start to conduct studies on the viability of economic instruments as well as implement already proven effective instruments for selected LGUs in the various MKBAs. This is currently being initiated in selected LGUs of the Verde Island Passage where recent interventions supported by WWF and CI have generated initial information to enable the project team to design and establish these economic instruments. This will in turn be subjected to proper public consultations to ensure their acceptance among the target users.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 12.

<b>Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Conduct scoping of potential instruments</b>					
Design and establish instruments for select VIP LGUs			O		
Team Lead: Senior Resource Economist, REECS, and SSG					
Key Partners: BFAR, LMP, LPP, LGUs					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 12 during the reporting period include:

- The VIP LGUs are being consulted on potential economic instruments for fisheries management, in addition to existing MBIs that have been established by prior projects and initiatives. Consultations are ongoing, and are being synchronized with other project interventions such as work on NAPC's bottom-up budgeting (BuB).

#### **4.14. Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs**

For the sustainable financing programs, initially the team started to gather and review existing coastal and fisheries management plans of municipalities in the focal sites, scope for potential commodities that will become the target for the value chain analysis, and explore the possibilities of setting up payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes for selected LGUs in the MKBAs.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 13.

<b>Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs</b>					
<b>Project Intervention/Activity</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>Translate IFRM Plan into business plans</b>					
Review existing management plans for developing business plans		O	O		
Draft business plans for selected LGUs with existing management plans					
<b>Development of Inter-LGU Trust Funds</b>					
Initiate the process of establishing inter-LGU trust funds					
<b>Value chain analysis for local fisheries</b>					
Conduct scoping on target fisheries for value chain analysis (can come out of the assessments and FGDs)			O		
<b>Establish PES Schemes</b>					

Initiate studies for establishment of PES schemes in select LGUs		O	O		
Team Lead: Senior Resource Economics Specialist, REECS, SSG Key Partners: BFAR, LGUs, Private sector					

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 13 during the reporting period include:

- Existing fisheries management plans and CRM plans in the focal sites are being collected and reviewed. Work on the translation of these management plans into business plans will commence after a thorough scoping has been done, most probably during the second year of the project.
- Potential target fisheries for value chain analysis are being identified through the FGDs and key informant interviews being done along with the establishment of socio-economic baseline surveys. Data is still being collected as the surveys are still being set up in half of the MKBAs of the project. The results will be compared with the results of the benchmarking survey and will be consulted with BFAR and local stakeholders prior to the actual conduct of value chain studies.

## 5. Site-Level Year 1 Semi-Annual Accomplishments

The activities in the MKBAs primarily mirror many of the interventions and activities to achieve the various deliverables described above (Section 4). Start-up activities may differ from site to site and their completion depended upon the actual hiring of site managers, coordination with relevant BFAR Regional Office/s, and coordination with local government executives/units and other partners.

### 5.1. Start-Up Activities

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under the site-level Start-Up Activities.

Start-up Activities	2012		2013		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Hiring of staff</b>					
Hiring of Site Managers	O	C			
Hiring of community organizers			O		
<b>Coordination with BFAR Regional and Provincial Offices</b>					
Courtesy call with BFAR Regional Director and key staff		O	C		
ECOFISH Project launching including presentation of project			O		
<b>Coordination with LGUs and local partners</b>					
Consultation and orientation meetings with LGU executives and fisheries staff		O	C		
Endorsement or approval of project by special bodies (e.g. PCSDS)		O	O		

Drafting and signing of MOAs or MOUs			O		
Consultation meetings with other local partners (NGOs, universities)			O		
<b>Administrative and Operations</b>					
Establishment of field offices			O	C	

Highlights of key site-level start-up activities during the reporting period include:

- All site managers were hired and hiring of their respective community relations staff is ongoing.
- All site managers have presented their respective annual work plan to the BFAR Region Director and key staff, established their system of coordination and reporting with their respective BFAR Regional Offices/Directors, identified their focal person at the region, and set-up the system of collaborative implementation of project activities with the regional office units/staff.
- All site managers have completed their rounds of individual introduction of ECOFISH to LGU executives and their staff in the focal areas. Most LGUs did not require formal introduction or launching of the project in their respective municipalities.
- 
- In collaboration with BFAR Caraga and the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte, ECOFISH formally launched the project on 30 January 2013 at the Provincial Convention Center in Surigao City. This was done in coordination with the Provincial Agriculture Office, the Provincial Environment Management Office and the BFAR Caraga Information and Publication Office. Over 100 guests and participants from 15 municipalities of Surigao del Norte attended the event. Present were the Governor, Vice Governor, Sangguniang Panlalawigan members, Mayors, Vice Mayors, Sangguniang Bayan Members, Municipal Planning and Development Officers, Municipal Agriculturists, Municipal/City Environment and Natural Resources Officers, Agriculture Technicians and other local partners in the academe and media. Overall, the response from local partners has been positive.
- In Tawi-Tawi, a formal half day orientation was conducted for mayors of Simunul, Panglima Sugala, Sapa-Sapa, Tandubas and South Ubian and Bongao on 20 February 2013. All the mayors expressed their support and recalled the positive impact of the former FISH project in the province.
- In the Ticao Pass – San Bernardino Strait – Lagonoy Gulf MKBA, the Regional Directors of BFAR Regions 4 and 8 organized Project briefings attended by regional and provincial personnel. The staff also joined focal site selection field trips, provided background information, and together with the site manager, planned site-specific activities for the engagement of the LGUs.
- BFAR Region 8 invited in January 2013 the three Northern Samar LGUs to a Project orientation and planning. Only the mayor of Capul was able to attend and the Biri mayor was briefed later in a separate occasion. In Region 5, following the advice of the PFO, the introduction of ECOFISH Project was conducted for each LGU in separate occasions.
- All site managers, with the exception of Surigao del Norte, have finalized the selection of office spaces in their respective MKBAs. Three site managers have been provided field offices by partner agencies: the South Negros MKBA office is located inside the BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office in Dumaguete City; the Ticao Pass – San Bernardino Strait –

Lagonoy Gulf MKBA office is located inside the National Seaweed Technology Development Center in Cabid-an, Sorsogon City; and the Verde Island MKBA office is situated inside the BFAR Regulatory and Quarantine Building in Batangas Port in Batangas City. The rest have rented office spaces at the center of operation in their respective MKBAs (Alaminos in Lingayen Gulf, Coron in Calamianes, Tagbilaran in Danajon Reef, Surigao City in Surigao del Norte, and Bongao in Tawi-Tawi). The site manager for the Surigao MKBA is temporarily holding office at BFAR CARAGA while finalizing the contracting agreement for his office space.

- All site managers conducted ECOFISH orientation with their respective BFAR regions, primarily discussing what the project is all about, its components and deliverables.
- From January to March, 2013, the Project was introduced to partner LGUs and stakeholders by way of two-day orientation workshops in six of the eight MKBAs - South Negros, Danajon Bank-Bohol, Lingayen Gulf, Calamianes Group of Islands, Surigao del Norte and TawiTawi. These orientation workshops were attended by representatives from LGUs, NGAs, donor-funded projects and NGO/civil society from the following focal municipalities: (1) South Negros: Cauayan, Sipalay City, Hinobaan, Basay, Bayawan City, Santa Catalina, Siaton; (2) Lingayen Gulf: Agoo, Aringay, Bauang, Caba, Rosario, San Fernando City, Alaminos, Santo Tomas; (3) Calamianes Group of Islands: Coron, Busuanga, Culion and Linapacan; (4) Danajon Bank-Bohol: Buenavista, Clarin, Getafe, Inabanga, Tubigon; (5) Surigao del Norte: Surigao City, Taganaan, Placer, Bacuag, Gigaquit and Claver; and (6) TawiTawi: Bongao, Simunul, Panglima Sugala, Sapa-Sapa, Tandubas and South Ubian.
- Orientation workshops for the remaining two MKBAs , Ticao Pass - San Bernardino Strait – Lagonoy Gulf and Verde Island Passage are scheduled for June, 2013, more or less a month after the election.

## **5.2. Site-Level Activities in Support of Project Deliverables**

During the last three quarters site-level activities were mostly focused on preparatory work for planned interventions that will lead to achieving various deliverables of the project. Site activities at this point are still in their initial stages. The team at the sites assisted or facilitated the gathering of information in their respective MKBAs or municipalities that will ultimately serve as input to policy studies, materials for the development of toolkits and case studies, information pertinent to the national database on EAFM, and information that will ultimately form part of the State of the Marine Resources Report.



The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverables 1, 2, 3, and 4.

<b>Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA and Climate Change</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 1</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Facilitate gathering of existing information at the MKBA and municipal levels for the policy studies on EAFM, MPA and CCA			O		
<b>Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 2</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Assist in the collection and consolidation of toolkits, IEC materials, workshop/training reports in the area related to EAFM, MPA and CCA			O		
<b>Deliverable 3: A National Database on EAFM Established Using the Annual Monitoring Data in the 8 MKBAs</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 3</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Coordinate and assist in the collection of existing data in the area on fisheries resources management for the national data base on EAFM.			O		
<b>Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 4</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Coordinate and assist in the collection of existing data in the area that are relevant to the State of the Marine Resources Report.					
Attend workshops or review sessions with ECOFISH team and partners to develop sections of the State of the Marine Resources Report					

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverables 1, 2, 3, and 4 during the reporting period include:

- Conducted the gathering and consolidation of secondary information related to EAFM, MPA and Climate Change. The secondary information were usually provided by the MAO, MPDC, CRM Office and DILG.
- Collected and compiled relevant information related to fisheries resources management for the national database on EAFM including CLUP, CRM plans, MPA plans, zoning plans, etc.
- Gathered needed information such as the current state of fisheries and coastal resources management, inventory of fisheries related ordinances, and biophysical assessment reports. Information collected included Coastal and Fisheries Profiles, PCRA Report, State of the Coast Report, Strategic Environmental Management Plan, among others.
- Prepared a summary of coastal and fisheries resource management profiles of municipalities in the focal areas to include primary information on institutional, financial, regulatory, basic CRM services and prevalent issues and concerns related to fisheries.

- These sets of information will serve as input to policy studies, materials for the development of toolkits and case studies, and will be included in the national database on EAFM and form part of the State of the Marine Resources Report.
- Collected relevant information generated by academic and research institutions such as the UP Marine Science Institute and Don Mariano Marcos State University in Lingayen Gulf; Siliman University in South Negros; Bicol Sate University in the Ticao Pass - San Bernadino - Sorsogon Bay; Batangas University, UP Marine Science Institute and De La Salle University in the Verde Island Passage; and Mindanao State University in Tawi-Tawi.
- On-going collection of materials generated by various NGOs, government projects, and private initiatives in the various MKBAs such as the Conservation International (CI), World Wild Life Fund (WWF) for Nature, US support to the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), and other USAID projects.

A number of project interventions are being designed at the national level but are going to be implemented in both the national and site levels. These include the training and capacity building activities as well as the establishment of public-private partnerships. The site staff conducted preparatory activities such as consultation with local partners to assess the current state of fisheries and coastal resources management in their respective areas. They likewise coordinated the training needs assessment, capacity building needs assessment, benchmarking of capacity to implement EAFM, and other activities that are going to be conducted together with the various thematic leads of the project. Because of the necessity for a Leahy vetting process in enforcement trainings, the site staff commenced with the preparations early on to see to it that key partners required to be vetted, either as trainee or trainor, will already have been identified and their documentation process being initiated.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverable 5.

<b>Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 5</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Conduct consultation with local partners and assessment on the current state of fisheries and coastal resources management in the area.			O		
Field coordination of training needs assessment, capacity building needs assessment, and benchmarking of capacity to implement EAFM			O		
Coordinate preparations for enforcement trainings, particularly the documentation processes for Leahy vetting.			O		
Coordinate preparations and conduct of trainings that may already be done in selected MKBAs					

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverable 5 during the reporting period include:

- ECOFISH conducted “Benchmarking” consultation-workshops in six (6) of the eight (8) MKBAs (South Negros, Danajon Bank-Bohol, Lingayen Gulf, Calamianes Group of

Islands, Surigao del Norte and TawiTawi). The Benchmarking workshops were able to draw the governance baselines (using pre-designed indicators) that will be used to measure progress of LGU partners in developing their capacity to implement EAFM but will also serve as basis for identifying and designing of training activities that will in turn support coastal and fisheries resource management activities. Orientation workshops for the remaining two MKBAs, Ticao Pass - San Bernardino Strait – Lagonoy Gulf and Verde Island Passage are scheduled for June 2013.

- A series of initial discussions with local government units and fisher folks were undertaken in Calamianes Island Group to determine the status of coastal and fisheries resources management in the area. During the discussion, almost all the participants recognized that their MPAs are functioning but they still need support to improve their management. Destructive and illegal fishing activities were frequently mentioned in the discussions and identified as one of the main problems in the sites. All LGUs confirmed that they allocated budgets for coastal and marine resources management initiatives but yet not enough to fully operationalize the CRM plan. The discussions also generated a list of trainings or capacity building to advance fisheries governance.
- Several meetings with Local Chief PNPs, PCG and PNP-Maritime in Calamianes were conducted to discuss the Leahy vetting and facilitate the documentation process. Nearly twenty personnel from all enforcement units have responded and submitted the accomplished forms. Gathering of information on enforcement capacity assessment was initiated in Linapacan.
- In preparation for the planned fisheries law enforcement training in Southern Negros and Danajon Reef, completion of vetting forms by uniformed personnel and organizational profiling of coastal and fishery law enforcement teams were facilitated on site.
- The training and capacity building needs identified in the LGU orientation and benchmarking workshop in Surigao del Norte included training on coastal and fishery law enforcement, MPA establishment and management, and introduction and implementation of alternative livelihoods.
- The training and capacity building needs identified in the LGU orientation and benchmarking workshop in Tawi-Tawi included training on coastal and fishery law enforcement and MPA establishment and management.
- Though EAFM benchmarking and training needs assessment still has to be conducted in the Verde Island Passage MKBA (scheduled in June 2013), initial consultations and dialogues with LGUs and FARMCs indicated the need for technical assistance on MPA assessment and fisheries resources assessment and monitoring. Resource use conflicts are also potential issues that need to be addressed by the project.

The site staff likewise assisted site-level public-private partnerships (PPP) activities particularly in the identification of potential PPP opportunities in their respective MKBAs, mapping of stakeholders for partnerships across and outside priority areas, and in the preparation and conduct of business planning and partnership trainings.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverable 6.

<b>Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 6</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Assist in the conduct of site inspection and identification of potential PPP partnership opportunities		O	O		
Assist in the identification and mapping of stakeholders for PPP across and outside priority areas			O		
Provide technical and administrative assistance during the Business Planning and Partnership Training Workshops preparations			O		

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverable 6 during the reporting period include:

- The project conducted discussions with LGUs, NGAs and the private sectors on 5-6 March 2013 to identify alternative livelihoods for fishing households which may be displaced from fisheries management interventions and potential partnerships with the private sector. During discussions, the participants unanimously agreed that one of the needs within Calamian Islands is equity in the production and marketing of the products.
- Initiated meeting with Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) to discuss potential partnerships on MPA management in Linapacan and Culion.
- Facilitated the conduct of round table discussion with the LGU of Ubay, Bien Unido and Talibon with the PPP team and identified potential business partners for the implementation of PPP activities.
- In support to the upcoming PPP activities and the socioeconomic baseline assessment, gathering of secondary data and coordination with the LGUs in South Negros were initiated.
- Facilitated resource mapping to identify the existing enterprises and livelihood programs in each municipality in the Verde Island Passage MKBA in preparation for the Community Partnership Scoping workshop.
- Provided technical and administrative assistance to PPP Specialists and partner LGUs during the PPP Community Partnership Scoping Workshop held 12 March 2013.

One of the important tasks of the site manager at this early stage of project implementation is the preparation, coordination and supervision of the biophysical and socioeconomic assessments to establish the baseline parameters for the key results of the project. The site preparation work included the briefing of local officials, POs and NGOs regarding the nature and scope of the baseline assessments including the selection and hiring of enumerators to conduct the actual data collection. The site personnel coordinated with LGUs all survey and data collection activities and stakeholder consultations.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverable 7.

<b>Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 7</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Brief local executives and coordinate with LGU fisheries staff regarding arrangements for the biophysical and socioeconomic baseline assessments			O		
Assist in the identification and hiring of enumerators for the biophysical and socioeconomic baseline assessments			O		
Coordinate meetings with local officials, POs, local NGOs, and other knowledgeable leaders regarding preparations for the biophysical and socioeconomic baseline assessments			O		
Provide administrative and technical assistance to the team in the conduct of biophysical and socioeconomic baseline assessments			O		

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverable 7 during the reporting period include:

- Facilitated the conduct of training of enumerators for the socioeconomic surveys on 6-7 March 2013 for 10 participants from three municipalities of the Calamianes Island Group MKBA. After the training, the enumerators were mobilized to collect primary data on socioeconomic situation of the three focal areas in Culion, Busuanga and Coron.
- Facilitated the conduct of fish catch monitoring training on 4-8 March 2013 for 12 enumerators in Danajon Reef MKBA. Official start of fisheries baseline data collection was 15 March 2013.
- Facilitated the conduct of fish catch monitoring training on 12-16 March 2013 for 12 enumerators in the Calamianes Island Group MKBA. After the training, site visits to the catch monitoring sites were made to formally introduce the enumerators to the local government units for proper coordination before deployment to their respective sites. The enumerators started surveys on 25 March 2013.
- Conducted FGDs with local government units and stakeholders in the three municipalities ( Culion, Coron and Linapacan) as part of the socio economic assessment of the Calamianes Island Group MKBA.
- Preparatory work on the biophysical and socioeconomic baseline assessments in South Negros including facilitating administrative and logistic needs, briefing and coordination with LGU technical staff, gathering of secondary data, identification of survey sites as well as identification, selection and hiring of enumerators to conduct the actual data collection for both biophysical and socioeconomic assessments.
- Coordinated with BFAR CARAGA, PAO, PEMO, and the LGUs in the focal area the preparations for the socio-economic baseline assessment scheduled for April 2013. This also included preparation for the focus group discussions with LGU officials, FARMC members, PO representatives and the recruitment of local enumerators to be trained for the actual field survey in the selected coastal barangays in the focal area.

- Conducted training of enumerators on socio economic surveys on 18-19 March 2013 for enumerators from the municipalities in the focal area of Tawi-Tawi MKBA. After the training, the enumerators were mobilized to collect primary socioeconomic data.
- Conducted coordination meetings with the Sorsogon PFO, the various LGUs in the focal area of the Ticao Pass – San Bernardino Strait- Lagonoy Gulf MKBA for the conduct of the biophysical and socioeconomic assessment, including the identification of candidate enumerators and other arrangements.
- Coordinated and sought the permission of the local chief executives, concerned LGU staff, Barangay Chairmen, as well as the Sangguniang Barangay for the biophysical and socioeconomic baseline assessments and provided administrative assistance to the subcontractors in the identification and recruitment of enumerators in the Verde Island Passage MKBA.
- Facilitated the conduct of training of enumerators for the socioeconomic surveys for participants from three municipalities of the Verde Island Group MKBA. After the training, the enumerators were mobilized to collect primary data on the socioeconomic situation of the focal area.

Also, at this early stage of project implementation the role of site managers is to coordinate the consultation with stakeholders on species-specific or gear-specific scientific studies. Briefing of local officials, POs and NGOs regarding the nature and scope of the scientific studies and activities, as well as the conduct the actual data collection if necessary, will come after the specific studies are identified and prioritized.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverable 8.

<b>Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 8</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Coordinate consultation with stakeholders on species-specific or gear-specific scientific studies			O		
Coordinate collection of primary data and secondary information for the species-specific or gear-specific scientific studies					

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverable 8 during the reporting period include:

- Discussions with key LGU officials and fishers were conducted to determine species specific or gear-specific studies in the Calamianes Island Group MKBA. In Busuanga, the Municipal Agriculturist requested a study on the effect of “lambaklad” or Otoshi-ami installed in the municipal waters, particularly in Barangay Panlaitan. In Culion, the LGU proposed a gear restriction on harvesting of gravid blue crabs, while both municipalities of Coron and Culion expressed that closed season for siganids and anchovies should be implemented in their areas.
- Ongoing consultation with the MAOs, FARMCs and Bantay Dagat on their respective fisheries and other coastal and marine resource management programs in the Verde

Island Passage MKBA. The major problem specific to the area is the rapid decline of fish catch and the encroachment of commercial fishing inside the Balayan Bay. There are several studies on fish catch monitoring and larval dispersal in Batangas conducted and the LGUs as well as the PGENRO have already proposed a “closed season” intervention and is seeking technical assistance and guidance for the development of this management strategy, particularly on the identification of the priority species and gears.

At this early stage, the preparation and coordination role of the site staff the establishment of MPAs and network of MPAs were focused on facilitating the review of MPA management plans, assisting in the strengthening of MPA management committees, and providing technical assistance for the administration of the MPA management effectiveness assessment tools (MEAT).

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverable 9.

<b>Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 9</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Conduct orientation and consultation on the establishment of MPAs - for areas without MPAs or need strengthening of existing MPAs			O		
Facilitate identification of potential sites for the establishment MPAs			O		
Coordinate consultation with stakeholders on the selection of MPA sites			O		
Facilitate the review of MPA management plans - for areas with existing MPAs or network of MPAs			O		
Facilitate strengthening of MPA management committees					
Facilitate orientation on Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) – for areas with existing MPAs or network of MPAs			O		
Assist in providing technical assistance, coaching and mentoring for the administration of MEAT			O		

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverable 9 during the reporting period include:

- Provided technical assistance to strengthen the Siete Pecados Marine Park Management Council. Consolidated and reviewed MPA management plans, organizational structure and all existing policies regarding MPAs. Consultative meetings with stakeholders of Balisungan Marine Reserve and Siete Pecados Marine Park were conducted to increase awareness and understanding of the value of MPAs.
- Conducted initial discussion with the Calamianes MPA Network Chairman on the revitalization of the Network and consolidated and reviewed the MPA management plans of the four municipalities. All plans have not yet been finalized and adopted.
- Conducted orientation with Municipal Agriculturists in Calamianes on MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) and administered the evaluation of existing MPAs in four municipalities using MEAT. Initial result of the MEAT shows that all existing MPA sites remain at Level 1 category.



- Discussed with the various Municipal Agriculturists in the Danajon Reef MKBA regarding the status of MPAs located in their respective municipal waters and initiated the gathering of existing data on the result of MPA assessments in the Danajon Bank conducted by various organizations (NGOs, POs, academic institutions).
- Initiated discussions to determine the needs of local communities in the Lingayen Gulf as far as strengthening of MPAs is concerned. There are 7 MPAs already established in La Union but all lack key elements to enable more effective management systems and high MPA rating.
- The team developed MPA training design for Lingayen Gulf MKBA which will involve the conduct of baseline assessments and reporting, MPA management plan formulation and training on MPA monitoring. This will culminate in the establishment of the La Union MPA Network that the project has started to promote.
- Negotiations are underway for the involvement of Chevron Philippines in providing funding support for the establishment of the MPA Network under the project's PPP initiative for the Lingayen Gulf MKBA
- For LGUs in South Negros with existing MPAs, plans, ordinances and assessment reports were collected and reviewed. The MPA MEAT was likewise facilitated for these municipalities.
- Introduced the MEAT to key fishery personnel at the PAO in Surigao del Norte to assist the Province in its on-going search for the Best MPA in the area, at the same time using the opportunity to note and evaluate status of existing MPAs in the focal area.
- Initiated meeting with MPA management committee of Lagasan-Pababag MPA, Pasiagan Fish Sanctuary, Batu-Batu Kulape MPA and Maruwa Fish Sanctuary. The need for reorganization of the management committees and review of the MPA management plans for MPAs of Bongao, Simunul and Panglima Sugala was recognized. Issues like lack of financial support from LGUs is still recurring.
- The identification of potential MPAs in Sorsogon part of the focal area will depend on the results of the biophysical assessment to be conducted by MERF. For Northern Samar, the assessment will be carried out by BFAR Region 8 personnel. The survey of the coral reefs in Capul in March identified an area in Barangay Oson as a potential MPA site. The survey of Biri and San Vicente are scheduled in April and May.
- Accomplished the application of MPA MEAT in the Verde Island Passage MKBA for the evaluation of existing MPAs in the area, particularly the focal area, and provided inputs during the regular Batangas MPA Network meeting particularly in the review of the various MPA Plans.
- Provided technical assistance and coaching to the municipality of Taal and the MFARMC in the establishment of their MPA, as well as the preparation of the necessary documents for the establishment of the MPA.
- Assistance to the partner LGUs in the Verde Island Passage MKBA in the review and updating of their respective MPA management plans, particularly in the identification of priority targets for action planning, is currently being provided.

As preparatory activity for the development of inter-LGU fisheries management plans, the site teams started with the collection of existing municipal fisheries management plans, CRM plans and fisheries ordinances. Orientation sessions on fisheries management, EAFM benchmarking process, and consultation to identify and prioritize fisheries management interventions that need



to be initiated have been conducted. For areas with existing inter-LGU fisheries management plans or framework plans, the site teams initiated putting together these documents for purposes of reviewing the plan as a whole and identification of activities to strengthen or reinvigorate the plans.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverable 10.

<b>Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 10</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Collect and consolidate existing municipal fisheries management plans, CRM plans, fisheries ordinances and other related materials			O		
Conduct orientation sessions on fisheries management and facilitate the conduct of the EAFM benchmarking process			O		
Conduct consultation to identify and prioritize fisheries management interventions that need to be initiated			O		
Facilitate the review of inter-LGU fisheries management plan (for those MKBAs with existing inter-LGU fisheries management plan)			O		

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverable 10 during the reporting period include:

- Initiated the compilation and review of the Calamianes Integrated Fisheries Management Plan. During the ECOFISH orientation and EAFM benchmarking workshop conducted on 4-5 February 2013 the participants were able to identify priority fisheries and coastal resource management actions particularly the implementation of the water use plan in conjunction with the Comprehensive Water and Land Use Plan of Calamianes Island Group.
- In collaboration with Coastal Conservation Education Foundation (CCEF), a workshop to revisit and review the Danajon Double Barrier Reef (Cebu, Leyte, Bohol, Southern Leyte) fisheries management framework plan was conducted. The draft is in the process of finalization for presentation to and approval of the Danajon Double Barrier Reef Management Council.
- Consolidated data on municipal fisheries profile of the seven municipalities in the focal area of the Lingayen Gulf MKBA, documented issues on law enforcement and evaluated the status of their fisheries management plan. All seven municipalities have drafted the coastal resource management plans but lacked a solid long-term plan for fisheries management.
- The existing municipal and alliance wide coastal and fisheries resources management plans and fisheries related ordinances in Southern Negros were compiled and reviewed. There are two existing clusters in South Negros, the Southern Negros Coastal Development and Management Council (SNCDMC) comprising of the municipalities of Cauayan, Sipalay City and Hinobaan and the Coastal Law Enforcement Cluster (CLEC) of Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Bayawan City. The SNCDMC is implementing an agreed

alliance framework that includes initiatives on fishery law enforcement, fisherfolk registration, gear registration and vessel licensing, and establishment and strengthening of MPAs. The CLEC in Southern Negros Oriental however, focuses their collaboration on the Joint Seaborne Patrol Program and strengthening law enforcement within their municipal waters.

- In the review of ordinances, it was found out that the Municipality of Siaton and Cauayan have no municipal water delineation ordinances. Siaton has an existing barangay boundary dispute with the Municipality of Zamboangita while Cauayan has received the technical descriptions from National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA) but the finalization of the delineation ordinance is still pending.
- Briefed the Technical Advisory Group of the Hinatuan Passage Development Alliance (HIPADA) about the ECOFISH Project and solicited support of the advisory group. The Alliance is an inter-LGU management body of coastal municipalities along the Hinatuan Passage that essentially includes the Project's six municipalities in its focal area along the coastline of mainland Surigao del Norte.
- Started collection and consolidation of existing municipal fisheries and coastal management resources management plans, fisheries ordinances and other related materials, including the Provincial CRM Framework Plan in Surigao del Norte. Likewise, assisted PAO, PEMO and the Technical Working Group (TWG) in drafting the action plan for the updating of the Provincial CRM Framework Plan
- Initiated compilation of information and review of draft fisheries management plans of municipalities in the focal area of Tawi-Tawi. Conducted discussion with Bongao LGU on the draft Municipal Fisheries Code noting that the Sangguniang Bayan has already initially deliberated on this.
- All LGUs in the focal area of the Ticao Pass – San Bernardino Strait- Lagonoy Gulf MKBA have municipal fisheries profiles which were made three to eight years ago. Only Santa Magdalena, Biri and Capul have municipal fisheries ordinances and only Capul has a fisheries management plan. There are no inter-LGU alliances on either side of the Strait.
- Initial consultations to identify and prioritize management interventions have been conducted in Matnog (establishment of a fish sanctuary and mariculture), Biri (enforcement against cyanide fishing and establishment of fish sanctuaries), Capul (enforcement of the ban against compressor and blast fishing), and San Vicente (an end to commercial fishing intrusion).
- The site manager attended a multi-sector consultation in February 2013 regarding the Yellowfin Tuna Management Plan for Lagonoy Gulf which was sponsored by the WWF. The participants moved for a multi-species management plan.
- Collected and consolidated existing fisheries management plans, CRM Plans, fisheries ordinances and other related materials in coordination with the concerned LGU offices in the focal area of the Verde Island Passage MKBA.

The part of initial activities in the establishment of registry of users of municipal waters, the site teams coordinated the collection of existing municipal fisheries registration and licensing systems. After the launching of the national fisherfolk registration system (FishR) towards the middle of the year, orientation sessions on registration of fisherfolks and fishing boats and licensing of fishing gears or fishing operations will be initiated in the sites. For areas with

existing registration and licensing system, the site team will facilitate their review and the identification of activities to strengthen or, in some cases, revive the system.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverable 11.

<b>Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the MKBA</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 11</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Collect, consolidate and review of existing registration and licensing systems			O		
Conduct orientation on the registration of fisherfolk and fishing boats and licensing of fishing gears or fishing operations			O		
Initiate registration and licensing trainings of LGU partners					
Facilitate the review of registration and licensing system (for those LGUs with existing registration and licensing system)					

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverable 11 during the reporting period include:

- Gathered existing municipal fisheries registration and licensing systems of each LGU and compiled list of fisher folks in Calamianes Island Group MKBA.
- Gathered existing municipal fisheries registration and licensing systems of LGUs comprising the focal area in Danajon Reef and compiled data on the list of registered fisherfolks.
- The existing municipal fisheries registration and licensing systems of each LGU in South Negros were reviewed and the registration and licensing forms were collected. As to the compliance of LGUs to the online Municipal Fisherfolk Registration System (MFRS) of BFAR, only the municipalities of Siaton, Santa Catalina, Bayawan and Basay are using the database. BFAR Regional Office VI has conducted the training for a number of LGUs in the region in 2009 but the online MFRS is not yet implemented in Cauayan, Sipalay City and Hinobaan.
- During site managers field visits, it was noted that significant number of commercial fishing vessels in Southern Negros were not registered by either BFAR or Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and a number also have not renewed their licenses. To expedite the renewal of registration of commercial fishing vessels the site manager made representations with MARINA on the possibility of organizing a mobile registration.
- Collected and compiled list of registered fisher folks in focal area of Tawi-Tawi initially focusing on the municipalities of Bongao, Simunul and Panglima Sugala as well as BFAR Provincial office. Sapa-Sapa, Tandubas and South Ubian still do not have registration and licensing system.
- Initiated the collection of existing documents pertaining to registration and licensing system. All LGUs have incomplete registries based on the previous BFAR system. Biri's registry is in the DBM's RSBSA format which was accomplished in January 2012. Only Capul has a functioning licensing system.

- Coordinated with the MAO and MFARMC the acquisition of the list of registered fisher folks in all municipalities. At present the municipality of Mabini and Bauan has submitted their respective list although the data needs updating.

At this early stage the support role of the site teams in the establishment of revenue generation and sustainable financing schemes are just limited to gathering of existing secondary information related to revenue generation and sustainable financing. The primary data collection for these activities are covered under the biophysical and socio-economic baseline assessment.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities at the sites under Deliverables 12 and 13.

<b>Delivery 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs in the MKBA</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 12</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Coordinate meetings with local officials, POs, local NGOs, and other stakeholders in preparation for the workshop and consultation on revenue generation system			O		
Facilitate the gathering of secondary data related to revenue generation system			O		
Coordinate and provide technical support for the valuation studies of the project.			O		
<b>Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the MKBA</b>					
<b>Site Activities/Support for Deliverable 3</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2013</b>		
	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
Coordinate meetings with local officials, POs, local NGOs, and other stakeholders in preparation for the workshop and consultation on sustainable financing programs			O		
Facilitate the gathering of secondary data related to sustainable financing programs			O		

Highlights of key site-level activities/accomplishments in support of Deliverables 12 and 13 during the reporting period include:

- The gathering of secondary information related to revenue generation and sustainable financing in Southern Negros will commence in the next quarter. The primary data collection for these activities will be covered under the biophysical and socioeconomic baseline assessment which are scheduled in April 2013.
- Data gathering for the Verde Island Passage MKBA is on-going. Mabini and Tingloy have updated their CRM Plan and their diving fee from 150 pesos to 200 pesos wherein Mabini gets 75% from the generated fund while 25% for Tingloy. The municipality of Bauan has temporarily deferred the collection of conservation fee since there is a problem in the Ordinance while the conservation fee ordinance of Calatagan is not yet implemented and the municipality is still in the consultation process and IEC stage. Some

LGUs particularly Balayan, Lemery and Bauan have expressed their intention to adopt the strategy similar to that of Mabini and Tingloy.

## **6. Performance Synopsis**

As mentioned earlier, the start up activities were crucial in ensuring that all development partners were not just officially on board but, more importantly, were already involved in detailed planning of project interventions and supporting activities at various levels. The support of immediate partners is crucial, the National DA-BFAR in moving forward policy instruments to implement EAFM, the Regional and Provincial DA-BFAR in the implementation of the suite of activities the project intends to implement in the MKBAs, and the local governments in recognizing the need to manage their fisheries and coastal resources and ultimately, assuming ownership of the initiatives.

The ECOFISH project team has achieved the major thrusts (refer to Section 3) it planned to undertake during this first three quarters of project implementation. Right after the formalities of launching the project, the team conducted a more detailed consultation with BFAR National Section Heads and Regional Directors on the Life of Project Work Plan. This included presentation of the details of the project deliverables, incorporation of comments and suggestions, and final selection of focal areas, expansion areas and replication areas of the project. This was followed by a formal ECOFISH orientation and consultation with LGU executives and other partners in focal areas. This orientation, likewise, served as benchmarking of the capacity of local partners to implement EAFM, assessment of training and other capacity building needs of partner LGUs and consultation on potential early fisheries management actions in the MKBAs. The Year 1 Annual Work Plan was likewise presented to BFAR National Section Heads and Regional Directors for their comments, suggestions and approval.

A major activity for this reporting period is the establishment of the baseline, primarily for the biophysical and socioeconomic status in the eight MKBAs. By the end of Year 1 all baseline data will have been collected and analyzed. The baseline information will not only serve as reference point for the project results, but will likewise be used for designing fisheries and socioeconomic interventions. They will also serve as start up information for capacity building programs (including the assessment of level of governance, training needs assessment and climate vulnerability assessment). The biophysical, socio-economic and governance information will likewise serve as basis for determining and setting in place early fisheries management actions as well as inputs to inter-LGU fisheries management planning.

The ECOFISH Project team met with BFAR Director and Regional Directors on various occasions to discuss policy directions and priorities of BFAR and how ECOFISH can be mobilized to develop and demonstrate national priority initiatives related to EAFM. The team also met with other potential government partners (NAPC, DENR, LCP, LMP, DBM and NEDA) to brief the agencies about the project and to explore potential synergies. An important result was the linking of BFAR, DBM and NSO in developing a design for a revitalized municipal fisherfolk registration program that utilizes data from the Registry System for Basic

Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) initiated by DBM and NSO. ECOFISH is currently working closely with BFAR in designing the National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration (FishR), expected to be launched in May 2013. ECOFISH also explored synergy between BFAR and NAPC initiatives for fisherfolk livelihood options that will be linked to fisheries management interventions.

The ECOFISH TWG is the proposed group composed of technical staff from key partners/agencies under the auspices of the Coastal and Marine Conservation and Management Sub-committee to be co-chaired by DA, represented by the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries, and USAID, and includes representatives from Climate Change Commission. The TWG is intended to enhance catalytic participation with its coordination/collaboration function across relevant government agencies and partners. Formalization of the creation of this group awaits the finalization of the Joint Program of Implementation Letter under the signed GPH-USG Bilateral Assistance Program. Consultations with the major agencies (DA-BFAR, DILG and DENR-PAWB) have been initiated and drafting of the terms of reference is underway.

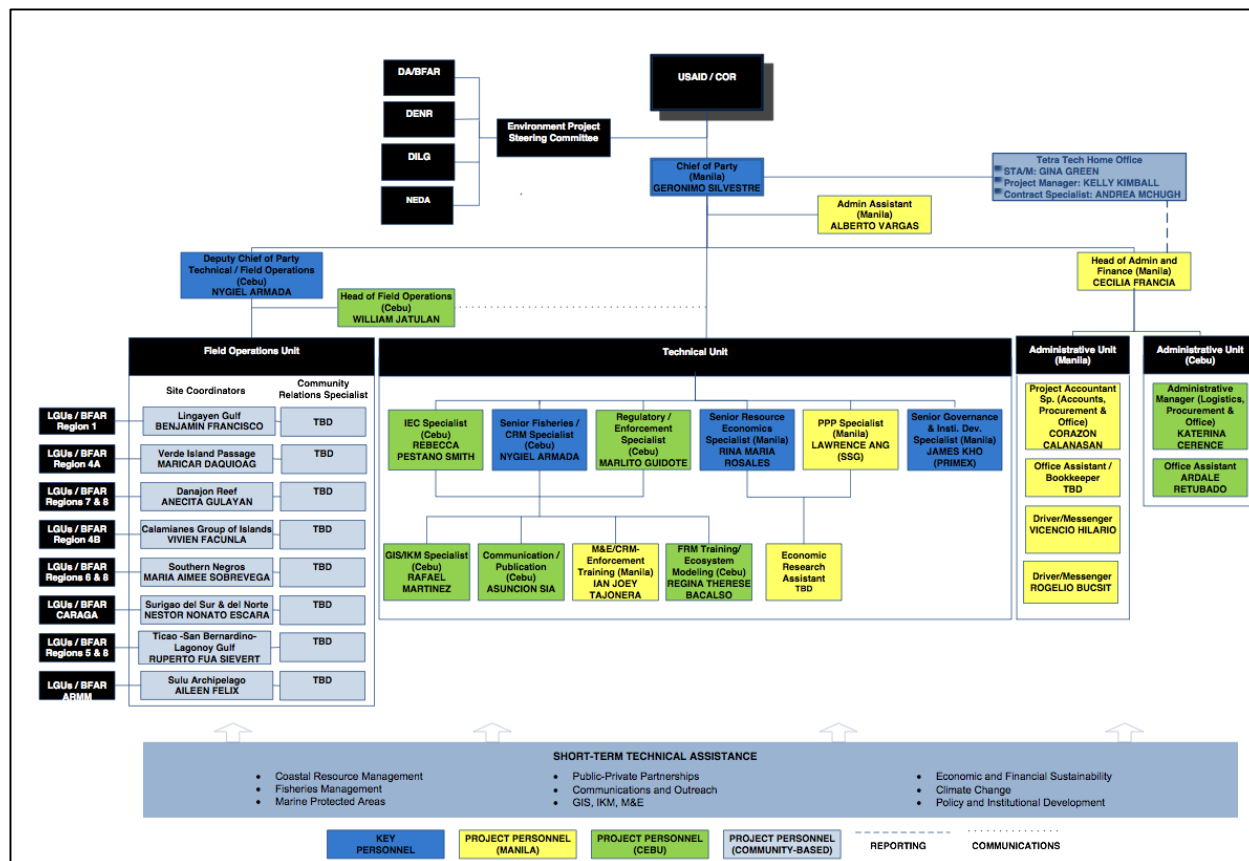
Developing or formalizing institutional arrangements with stakeholder groups in the MKBAs is a continuing process. It specifically contributes to the effective design process and implementation of project initiatives, as well as to the efforts of sustaining the agreed and crafted initiatives beyond the life of the project. In the Verde Island Passage MKBA, ECOFISH initiated agreements with Conservation International and the Malampaya Foundation Inc. on areas of collaboration, particularly in instituting species-specific fisheries management initiatives. The formal launch of ECOFISH in Surigao del Norte formalized the working relationship between the Provincial Government, BFAR-CARAGA, Municipal Governments and ECOFISH. ECOFISH is in collaboration with Coastal Conservation Education Foundation (CCEF) in connection with the activities of the Danajon Double Barrier Reef Management Council (DDBRMC). The project was initially involved in the review of the Fisheries Management Framework Plan, its finalization and ultimately, its approval by the DDBRMC.

As mentioned earlier, the search for local and national champions for sustainable and responsible fisheries is ongoing. Discussions have been initiated with the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) to continue LMP's MOREFISH Program or Movement for Responsible Fisheries. Identification of champions at the local and national level will take on a more accelerated mode upon completion of the national and local elections in May 2013.

The majority of ECOFISH staff is now on board (Figure 3). The hiring of the Community Relation Specialist will complete the staff requirement at the site level. The DCOP is not yet on board and its functions are being performed by the Senior Coastal Resources and Fisheries Management Specialist and the Chief of Party..

The Manila and Cebu offices are operational. All site offices in the eight MKBAs are operational as well. BFAR relations and coordination/reporting functions are now established and overseen by the COP/SGIDS. All site managers, with the exception of Surigao del Norte, have finalized the selection of office spaces in their respective MKBAs. Three site managers have been provided field offices by partner agencies: the South Negros MKBA office is located inside the BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office in Dumaguete City; the Ticao Pass – San

Bernardino Strait – Lagonoy Gulf MKBA office is located inside the National Seaweed Technology Development Center in Cabid-an, Sorsogon City; and the Verde Island MKBA office is situated inside the BFAR Regulatory and Quarantine Building in Batangas Port in Batangas City. The rest have rented office spaces at the center of operation in their respective MKBAs (Alaminos in Lingayen Gulf, Coron in Calamianes, Tagbilaran in Danajon Reef, Surigao City in Surigao del Norte, and Bongao in Tawi-Tawi). The site manager for the Surigao MKBA is temporarily holding office at BFAR CARAGA while finalizing the contracting agreement for office space.



**Figure 3. ECOFISH Organizational Chart**

Table 3 shows the major performance indicators<sup>1</sup> (extracted from the PMP), baselines and targets for the Year 1 of project implementation. Internal audit of the actual accomplishment will be reported in the Year 1 Annual Report. Given the progress in start-up activities and the foundational efforts (as detailed in Sections 4 and 5) put in by the team, the project is well on the way to meeting its Year 1 targets.

<sup>1</sup> These indicators are directly related to Key Results of the project. A total of 90 interventions that will lead to achieving the deliverables of the project will be monitored.

**Table 3. Baseline, Performance Indicators and Monitoring Targets for Year 1**

PIRS <sup>2</sup> No.	Key Result Area	Indicator	Baseline	Year 1 Target Numerical Targets
1	<b>Result A.</b> An average of 10% increase in fisheries biomass across the eight MKBAs.	Percentage increase in the biomass of selected fisheries in the focal areas across the 8 MKBAs relative to baseline using fisheries dependent method and MPA assessment method	Estimate of biomass (TBD)	
2	<b>Result B.</b> A 10% increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management from a baseline established at the start of the project	Percentage increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment in the focal areas across the eight MKBAs relative to baseline using socio-economic methods	Estimate of number (TBD)	
3	<b>Result C.</b> Establishment of a national capacity development program to enhance the capacities of LGUs and relevant national agencies to apply ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.	Number of EAFM training courses conducted (national, regional and local)	0	20
4		Number of persons trained in EAFM, MPA and CCA (national, regional and local) [FACTS 4.8.1-27: Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation]	0	300
5		Number of person hours of training on EAFM, MPA, and CCA (national, regional and local) [FACTS 4.8.1-29: Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance]	0	4,800
6		Number of policy studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA (national) [FACTS 4.8.2.28: Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change and/or biodiversity conservation formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance]	0	2
7	<b>Result D.</b> Eight public-private partnerships supporting the objectives of the ECOFISH project created and operating	Number of strategic partnerships formally established and operating (cumulative)	0	2
8		Number of community partnerships actively engaged and mobilized (cumulative)	0	10
9	<b>Result E.</b> One million hectares of municipal marine waters under improved management.	Number of hectares of municipal waters under improved management (cumulative) [FACTS 4.8.1-26: Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance]	0	0
10		Number of hectares of MPAs and network of MPAs established (cumulative) [FACTS 4.8.1-26: Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance]	0	0
11	<b>Result F.</b> A core of 30 LGUs across the eight MKBAs with improved capacity for implementing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.	Number of inter-LGU/MKBA fisheries management plans developed	0	0
12		Number of LGUs that have achieved EAFM benchmark level 2 or higher (cumulative)	Estimate of benchmark level TBD	

<sup>2</sup> Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (refer to Appendix 1 of the ECOFISH Performance Monitoring Plan for details)



## 6.1. Unplanned Activities

A number of activities participated in by the project team were not all part of the plan. Both the thematic leads of the team and the site managers were involved in activities that are primarily related to the deliverables of the project as well as foster good relation with partners. The ECOFISH team members participated, co-facilitated, assisted or supported various activities at the national level. These include, among others, the following:

- Participated in the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor summit on 27-28 September 2012. This was attended by local government officials, supporting NGOs, academic institutions and various stakeholder groups involved in the management of coastal and fisheries resources in the area. ECOFISH project team initiated talks on areas of collaboration related to specific activities of the project.
- Provided technical support and advise to BFAR and the Sardine Technical Working Group (TWG) during the consultation with the sardine industry for the proposed close season for sardines in the Moro Gulf and Southern Sulu Sea.
- Coordinated the field visit of League of Barangays in the municipality of Coron to Cebu and Bohol. The visit was intended for participants to learn more about the coastal resource management project and coastal law enforcement program being implemented in the two provinces and the role of barangay chairpersons in this program.
- Participated in the Coron Initiative Capacity Building and Training Conference and workshop series in conservation, sustainability and social responsibility organized by the Calamianes Cultural Network Inc. and the Society for Sustainable Tourism and Development, Inc. on March 8-10, 2013.
- Facilitated the completion of documents at the barangay and municipal levels for the Strategic Environmental Plan clearance required by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).
- Participated in various Danajon Bank related meetings, namely: coastal law enforcement activities in collaboration with CCEF, ELAC, and TK; action planning in collaboration with the Bohol Rescue Unit of Marine Mammals (BRUMM); and MPA evaluation in collaboration with the MPA Provincial Technical Working Group.
- Participated in a three day Trainers Training of the MPA TWG for monitoring, evaluation and assessment of MPAs in Danajon Reef.
- Participated in the Forum on "Some Challenges for Marine Protected Area (MPA) design for the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)" organized by Silliman University-Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management.
- Participated in BFAR consultative dialogue with Local Government Units, fisherfolk organizations, fishpond operators and FARMCs on the implementation and guidelines of Bottom-Up Budgeting for the National Fisheries Program in Dumaguete City.
- Participated and provided the project brief during the Negros Occidental-Provincial Environmental Management Office and DENR-PENRO meeting with developmental partners in relation to ridge to reef planning and implementation for 2013 in Bacolod City.

- Assisted BFAR ARMM regional office during the 2-day activity for the launching of Health, Education, Livelihood, Peace and Governance Synergy (HELPS) Program initiated by the office of the Regional Governor for ARMM province last 17-18 February 2013. Tawi-Tawi has two pilot municipalities, Bongao and Panglima Sugala. HELPS calls for the involvement of all agencies of government in the delivery of services in identified areas. Its convergence effort aimed to strengthen the implementation of the priority programs of NGAs. Beneficiaries that received livelihood assistance from BFAR were members of the MPA/Fish Sanctuary Management Committee and Bantay Sanctuary of Bongao and Panglima Sugala.
- Participated in the planning workshop of the NAPC Local Poverty Reduction Action Program conducted by DILG in the two (2) municipalities of Panglima Sugala and Simunul. Main result of the workshop is a list of identified priority projects for the 2014 budget
- Supported and assisted MSU project on coral restoration and transplantation in protected areas of Pasiagan (Bongao), Batu-Batu Kulape and Buan (Panglima Sugala), and Tonggusung-Maruwa (Simunul).
- Attended the soft launching of the Bantay Dagat Enforcement database in the Verde Island Passage on 12 December 2012.
- Attended and participated in the discussion on PHE program in the Verde Island Passage by PATH Foundation, Inc. (PFI) on 14 March 2013.

## 6.2. Issues and Concerns

The various start-up activities provided the ECOFISH project team a good opportunity to work closer with partners on the ground and at the national level. This enabled the team to learn more about the partners and the area of project implementation (including candid communication of their perceived issues and concerns they hope the project can address). The project team has tried to resolve these issues and concerns as they arise and to the best of the team's ability. Most of these require only some quick fix solutions, but a few would require long-term solutions.

- PNP officers are hesitant to fill-out the required information on the Leahy vetting forms and instead suggested to coordinate the matter with their top ranking officials particularly the PNP regional director for appropriate course of action.
- Some key informants for the FGD on the socioeconomic baseline assessment in Calamianes failed to attend and participate due to the busy schedule and engagement in the May 2013 election campaigns.
- The participation of members of the Danajon Double Barrier Reef (DDBR) Management Council is waning and there is a need to revitalize the participation including the sustained effort of the secretariat.
- With the forthcoming local elections, local chief executives and other local officials are usually out of the office which have somehow affected the schedule of activities in the field sites.
- Roles of BFAR's QRT and PFO in law enforcement in Surigao del Norte urgently need clarification to assist LGUs in the collection/gathering of evidence, filing of cases, litigation, etc.

- Governance is still very poor especially in the new municipalities of the focal area of Tawi-Tawi. Coordination for meetings is difficult due to non-availability of municipal officials in the area. Also, poor attendance in orientation workshops outside the municipality remains a concern due to lack of financial support for transportation expenses from LGUs. Participating employees in meetings and workshops are usually not the concerned person/staff.
- BFAR's functions are not yet devolved to the municipal governments in Tawi-Tawi. LGUs still have no capacity to implement fisheries programs even in previous focal area of the FISH projects.
- The focal area for the Ticao Pass – San Bernardino Strait – Lagonoy Gulf MKBA has been reconfigured due to security issues in original municipalities selected, primarily due to reports of active presence of New People's Army (NPA) in the area. The team decided to reconfigure the focal area. The current focal area configuration now includes the municipalities of Bulan, Matnog and Santa Magdalena in Sorsogon and the island municipalities of Biri, Capul and San Vicente.
- Delays in the conduct of socioeconomic surveys in the Verde Island Passage were incurred attributed to bureaucratic procedures, miscommunication, personal conflicts among partners, and election related issues.
- Initially selected sampling sites in the two barangays in Calatagan for the socioeconomic and biophysical baseline assessment had to be moved to alternative sites for security reasons, particularly due to reports of the presence of New People's Army (NPA) in the area.
- Delays in finalizing the USG-GPH bilateral assistance agreement and its implementing arrangements has delayed formalization of the project's coordination and reporting arrangements with key national partners (DA-BFAR, DENR-PAWB and DILG-BLGD).

### **6.3. Activities Not Accomplished and Why**

A number of activities were not accomplished as planned. The cause for these were usually beyond the project's control. Fortunately, however, all of these planned activities can still happen and can be accomplished within the Year 1 of project implementation.

- Establishment of the project site office for the Surigao del Norte MKBA has been delayed because BFAR CARAGA initially offered an office space for ECOFISH during the last quarter of 2012 while BFAR was renovating its Provincial Fishery Office building in Surigao City. However, when BFAR Caraga transferred to Surigao from Butuan in February this year, the Regional Office realized that office space is very limited to accommodate ECOFISH. Currently the site manager is holding office at the BFAR Caraga building while waiting for the finalization of lease contract for a new office.
- Activities pertaining to Public-Private Partnerships have not commenced in Surigao MKBA because the work program of the lead specialist/team is already full this year. Indications of potential PPP in the MKBA however are being noted for eventual action.
- Law enforcement training and related activities in Surigao del Norte have been sidelined in this site as the Project awaits official communication from PNP/PNP-Maritime/PCG

Head Offices endorsing ECOFISH to local commands, and instructing submission of names of personnel for Leahy Vetting as requisite to participation in project training activities scheduled this year.

- Reorganization of MCLETs for Bongao, Simunul and Panglima Sugala and review of Municipal Fisheries Management Plans for Panglima Sugala and Simunul were not undertaken due to the non-availability of municipal officials in the area. This is primarily due also to the recent standoff in Sabah, Malaysia which has made the provincial government of Tawi-Tawi, LGUs and government agencies very busy in addressing the problem of the influx of Filipino returnees coming from different areas of Sabah, Malaysia. As the election is also fast approaching, the more that coordination with partner LGUs is not possible. The partners suggested that activities should be done after the election.
- BFAR Regions 5 and 8 called for the postponement of the ECOFISH orientation and benchmarking activities for LGUs to avoid conflict with activities relating to the upcoming election. The launching will be done after the elected local officials take their seats. The project training needs assessment, capacity building needs assessment, and benchmarking of capacity to implement EAFM will be done during the post-election orientation.
- Major activities of ECOFISH in the Verde Island Passage were moved to June due to the upcoming local election. Participation to the consultation and other activities of several focal personnel were affected because some are political appointees.

#### **6.4. Recommended Courses of Action**

In addition to the specific response to issues and concerns and accelerating the conduct of activities not accomplished on time, the project also will pursue these recommended actions:

- ECOFISH will further improve coordination with the concerned law enforcement agencies and regular consultation and dialogues will be undertaken to facilitate the documentation for the Leahy Vetting.
- Consider another approach in implementing ecosystem approach to fisheries management in Danajon Reef, e.g. implement fisheries management by cluster of municipalities for each province and harmonize the initiative through the DDBR Management Council.
- Immediate hiring of technical staff (Community Relations Specialist) to ensure effective field coordination and mobilization in island municipalities in the focal area.
- Coordination and dialogues with law enforcement agencies for early management interventions.
- Conduct project briefing with new set of LGU officials in June 2013.
- Continue ad-hoc coordination and reporting arrangements agreed upon with key national partners (DA, DENR and DILG) until these are formalized under the USG-GPH bilateral assistance agreement.

#### **6.5. Initial Project Impacts**

At this early stage of implementation, the impact of the project could not still be fully realized. However, recent project activities with partners at the national and MKBA levels have already shown some initial impacts:

- ECOFISH made a breakthrough when it linked BFAR to DBM and NSO to share similar efforts in registering fishers. After several meetings, BFAR decided that the existing fisherfolk registration system should utilize the data already gathered under the RSBSA. ECOFISH provided assistance in developing the details of implementation to enhance the existing BFAR registration system utilizing the RSBSA data. This breakthrough has saved the GPH substantive financial resources (estimated to be at least 150 million pesos).
- The ECOFISH team is very much involved in continuing fisheries management initiatives initiated by partners and NGOs in the Verde Island Passage. The technical and scientific support to bring to fruition the limited “closed season” initiative for small pelagics in the VIP has been handed over to ECOFISH by partners in the area. The ECOFISH team will provide the technical and scientific support to study, design and recommend schemes and strategies for the implementation of “closed season” for small pelagics in the VIP.